جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالأنجائزية عن الموسسة المنطبة الاردنية «الراي،

ROME (R) — Italian Agriculture Minister Gianni Fontana Sunday resigned from the government after being targeted by a corruption probe. His spokesman told the ANSA news agency that the minister hand "already taken the steps to put his mandate back in the hands of (Prime Minister Giuliano) Amato." The corruption scandal tearing through the Italian establishment forced three senior ministers to resign last month. ANSA reported earlier the minister had been notified he faced investigaare a reported earner the manister have considered and illegally receiving funds. Mr. Fontana said he wanted "to be able to clarify his position in front of the magistrature at the earlier possible moment." have always tried to hase my political actions on transparency and clarity. Italy has been shaken over the past year by a corruption scandal based on allegations politicians systematically demanded kickbacks in return for the award of public works contracts.

Volume 17 Number 5264

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AMMAN MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1993, RAMADAN 29,1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

with Syrian officials

Ministry, discussed the issue of the nearly 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel. Diplomatic sources country's good offices as a co-sponsor of the Arab-Israeli peace talks to try to work out a solution to the crisis over the expellees.

Biast suspects not

DUBAI (AP) - The police chief Sunday denied that two Indian brothers sought in connection with a spate of bombings in Bombay had fled to Sandi Arabia. Brigadier Dhahi Khaflan reiterated in an interview that the men, identified by the Indian police as Yacub and Ismail Memon, flew to Dubai around the time of the March 12 bombings. But they later left for a "neighbouring" country, he said. He refused to specify their destination, but insisted: "They did not fly to Saudi

Firing disrupts caim in Kurdish spring

CIZRE, Turkey (AP) - Police fired over the beads of singing demonstrators Sunday and used armoured cars to disperse crowds celebrating the Kurdish spring festival of Nowruz in this town that was the scene of a bloodbath last year. State television said one demonstrator was killed in the southern city of Adana when police clasbed with stonethrowing demonstrators who refused to disperse. The Anatolia news agency said seven people were also slightly injured in the same clash. It quoted police chief were detained. Police also de-tained 60 Nowruz demonstrators tained 60 Nowruz demonstrators in the eastern Agri province after the demonstration became a separatist rally, the agency said. (see related story on page 2).

in Jersey City

on new suspect in U.S. biast ags cocker

CAIRO (R) — An Interior Ministry official said Sunday Egypt had no record of Egyptian-born Mahmud Abu Halima, named in New York as a suspect in the World Trade Centre bombing. "We did not find any record of a man with such a name in our files," Interior Ministry official Brigadier Galal Al Shami told Reuters, hinting the man might have been using a forged passport. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) spokesman James Lamb said on Saturday Abu Halima, a former New York taxi driver, was among the main suspects in the agency's investigation of the Feb. 26 bombing. An FBI sonree said Abn Halima apparently left the United States with his German wife and four children, two days after the March 4 arrest of Mohammad Salameh as a suspect in last month's bombing. Mr.

Hardliners lock horns with Yeltsin

Congress moves to impeach president; public rallies held in support and against Yeltsin, who gets world endorsement

MOSCOW (Agencies) - Rus- the report could not be imsia's hardline legislature took the first step towards impeaching President Boris Yeltsin Sunday as a way of thwarting his attempt to

rule by decree. The Russian Supreme Soviet, meeting in emergency session, voted 125-16 to ask Russia's constitutional court to review Mr. Yeltsin's declaration of emergen-

If the court finds that Mr. Yeltsin violated the constitution, he could be impeached by the full parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, which may be convened as early as Wednesday.

Mr. Yeltsin declared emergency rule Saturday and said he would hold a referendum on who should govern the country, the president or the hardline legislature made up largely of commun-

He scheduled the referendum for April 25 and said emergency rule would be in effect until then. The Supreme Soviet's resolu-

tion also asked Russia's chief prosecutor to consider wbether any of Mr. Yeltsin's advisers bear criminal responsibility for the declaration of emergency rule.

That amounts to a threat to put

the president's top aides though not Mr. Yeltsin himself on trial. Mr. Yeltsin did not attend the legislature's session, possibly be-cause of a death in the family. Economics Minister Andrei Nechayev told reporters that Mr. Yeltsin's mother bad died, but mediately confirmed. The Supreme Soviet's vote fol-

lowed a histering denunication of Mr. Yeltsin by his chief political rival, Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, who accused the president of trying to usurp power and leading the nation toward civil war.

If the congress impeaches Mr. Yeltsin, the result may be only a stalemate. The president's chief legal adviser, Sergei Shakhrai, has said Mr. Yeltsin would refuse

Outside the Russian "White House" where the Supreme Soviet was meeting, thousands of ordinary Russians were demonstrating for and against Mr. Yelt-About 3,000 pro-communist,

anti-Yeltsin protesters waved red flags at the back of the huilding. A large police contingent, with about 100 police vehicle, separated them from about 2,000 pro-Yeltsin protesters in front of the 19-storey white marble building.

No violence was reported. As night fell, some of the demonstrators lit bonfires and prepared for an all-night vigil, the first since Mr. Yeltsin's supporters flocked to the building to oppose the Aug. 1991 hardline coup.

In opening the legislative session, Mr. Khasbulatov said: "Pushed by his inner circle, the president has chosen the path of direct, tough confrontation with legislative and judicial bodies -

the path of extreme measures, which put him outside of the constitutional framework." "It's an attempt to establish arbitrary rule," Mr. Khasbulatov

Mr. Yeltsin told the nation during a television address Saturday that the parliament was trying to restore the old communist "nomenklatura" to power.

Mr. Khasbulatov said the presiabout fighting the communist hydra. Playing the communist card is a straight path toward breaking up society and civil

Defence Minister Pavel Grachev called for a political compromise and said the army would stay out of the dispute. But he warned that in some units, 'tempers are running high,' especially in the Moscow military

Security Minister Viktor Barannikov also pledged to keep his troops, the former KGB's forces, out of the fray.

Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi spoke after Mr. Khasbulatov and also denounced Mr. Yeltsin's declaration as unconstitutional.

Prime Minister -Viktor Cher-(Continued on page 5) 'Bottomiess depths,' page 4; Yeltsin promises sweeping re-

forms; IMF prepares plan,

4.



Celebrations held to

mark Karameh Battle

said.

AMMAN - Minister of Energy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sun-day attended a celebration

held in Al Karameh town

marking the 25th anniversary of Al Karameh Battle.

King Hussein lad a wreath

The Mufti of the Armed

Forces delivered an address

at the celebration commend-

ing the Armed Forces, and its

The most honourable uni-

form is that of the army. The

best people of the nation are

of flowers at the Martyrs

Monument in Karameh.

soldiers and martyrs.

and Mineral Resources Ali Abol Ragheb Sunday announced the discovery of a new gas field in the Al Risheh region in the northeast, 50 kilometres from fields which are already producing gas.

Mr. Abul Ragheb also said that

the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources will launch explorations for oil in the Dead Sea region at a depth of 1,000 metres since indications were that the area contains oil. The work will start immediately after the Eid holidays, he told the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i. Results of preliminary explora-

tions for gas in the Al Risheh have shown that the new-found field could produce gas on a commercial level, the minister said, adding that the expected output was more than the current gas production at Al Risheh fields. The gas produced from the new field will be used to generate power as well as for industrial



its dignity, pride and land;

and the best of the soldiers are the martyrs," the mufti

King Hussein met at the site with delegations repre-

senting public and private in-

stitutions which took part in

The celebration was

attended by His Royal High-

ness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, His Royal Highness

Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein. Prime Minister Sharif Zeid

Ben Shaker, the speakers of t

he Upper and Lower House's

purposes, and will offer a substantial substitute for imported energy, Mr. Abol Ragheb said.

The production capacity of the new field will be determined after the completion of tests being conducted by the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and expected to be concluded in early April.

The find acquires added significance because it was discovered 50 spection hureau be given special

Bis Majesty King Hussein greets scouts attending celebrations Sunday in Al Karameh (Petra photo)

the joint Chiefs of Staff, the ministers of culture, youth and prime ministry affairs, several Lower of Parliament

Yarmouk University, and senior government and army officials and citizens.

members, the president of

Risheh yields more gas; House committee reports dent's speech was "an attempt to usurp power veiled by rhetoric oil signs near Dead Sea civil service irregularities

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Lower House of Parliament committee Sunday accused ministries and government departments of illegal employ-ment practices and urged the prime minister to hold the perpet-

In a report to the House, a special panel set up to probe bate walleged nepotism in public sector puties. appointments claimed that 1,334 positions at 13 ministries and official departments were filled through illegal procedures.

The committee said, however, that its findings do not cover all violations at all government agenity of all the information it needed.

The committee, whose report is scheduled to be discussed by the House after the 'Eid Al Fitr holidays, asked that the Audit

authority to probe further violations and continue its investiga-

The committee was set up by the House after a debate on alleged unfairness and nepotism in public-sector appointments last month developed into harsh arguments among deputies on how to rators "accountable for these constitutional violations."

proceed with the issue which some parliamentarians said threatens national unity. The debate was requested by 15 de-

At the request of the House. the government provided depnties with names, graduation and appointment dates of all civil servants it has hired since the beginning of 1990, but asked parliamentarians to take into cies due to time constraints, lack account "the social pressure" that of resources and the unavailabil- accompanies government

While the report provided some deputies with the chance to lash at government bureaucracy and demand that those responsible for the violations be sent to Burean, the Civil Service Com- courts, it prompted others to mission and the control and in-

to retry hardline cleric

preacher Sbeikh Omar Abdul Rahman in his absence for inciting anti-government violence, judicial sources said Sunday.

The preacher's lawyer Adel Aymouni confirmed the report. He told Reuters a case brought against Sheikh Abdul Rahman and 49 alleged militants, in which all were found innocent, would be re-heard in a state security court in April.

Earlier Sunday, police at Cairo airport prevented a wife and four children of Sheikh Abdul Rahman from leaving the country

who was tried but acquitted of hlessing the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1981, have been under intense pressure in both the United

the offensive with a new ruthlessness against militants fighting to overthrow the government in

The sources said the younger of Sbeikh Abdul Rahman's two wives in Egypt, Faten, and four of her children tried to board an Egypt Air flight to Jeddah sayingthey were going to Saudi Arabia for a pilgrimage to Mecca.

Immigration officers were ordered to prevent them leaving because it was feared they could be going to join Sheikh Abdul Rahman in the United States, the

Sbeikh Abdul Rahman has lived in self-imposed exile in New

verdict, the judicial sources said.

Palestinians say evictee crisis solvable, Israeli commitments more important

no longer the main point of con-

Jordan Time, Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With less than a month to go before April 20, the date set for the ninth bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks, Palestinian officials say that the expellee issue could be addressed, hut there are two main stipulations which Israel should meet before the Palestinians return to the

"There is a real desire on the part of Palestinians to attend round nine of the talks, but we will not go ... until some steps are taken on the part of the Israelis," says the Amman-based advisor to the Palestinian negotiating team, Tayscer Aruri.

A phased return of the almost 400 Palestinian expellees in southern Lebanon, according to Tunis and Amman-based Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials, is acceptable in

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of annonymity from Tunis. "We want an Israeli commitment to the point of reference vis-a-vis the Palestinian-Israeli

mitment from them on anything," he said. Palestinian sources say that Israel needs to commit itself to a land for peace formula with the

dispute. So far we have no com-

"We need a commitment on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

We need to hear that the occupied territories are occupied and not 'disputed'," Mr. Aruri said.
"At this point we want two things to continue the talks; the first is a clear adherence to a withdrawal of lands occupied in the 1967 war territories that the leadership in and the second is a commitment not to deport any more people

"The issue of a phased return is from the occupied territories." PLO officials confirmed to the tention," says a senior advisor to Jordan Times that Syria, Egypt and Morocco were involved in efforts to convince the Israeli government of the need for such commitments.

PLO officials say that the quick Palestinian rejection of the U.S.-Russian invitation to round nine of the talks was a sign that "the Palestinians will not be taken for granted.

While anger was expressed in some PLO quarters that Mr. Ara-fat did not seek any advice before deciding to turn down the invitation most agree that the Palestinians could not have done other-

The refusal was necessary for two reasons, says a senior Palestine National Council (PNC) member. "First, it was necessary to show the Palestinians in the

(Continued on page 3)

French right seen sweeping polls

PARIS (Agency) France's centre-right opposition was head-ing for a landslide general election victory Sunday with more than 40 per cent of the vote and at least two-thirds of seats, first computer forecasts said. The television network TF 1

porjected after polis closed at g p.m. (1900 GMT) that the rightwing alliance of the conservative rally for the Republic and centreright Union for French Democracy wen a crushing 40.5 per cent of the vote: After next Sunday's second

round rum-offs, the alliance is expected to take up to 440 seats in the 577-member assembly, preelection survey's showed. The Socialists are expected to

be reduced to a token opposition. losing up to 160 seats of the 273 they now hold. - .

The Sofres polling institute precast that the Socialists would win just 19 per cent and take 57 to

67 seats. Another polling institute, BVA, also gave the conservative alliance 40. 5 per cent with 440 to

460 seats and the Socialists 19.4 period ealled "cohahitation." per cent for 75 to 100 seats. The Financial and AIDS scandals rest of the vote was shared among 10.5 per cent unemployment and

on votes already counted in rural areas where polls closed early, for 10 of the past 12 years. were broadcast on television stastations closed in Paris.

The much-taiked about ecologist alliance, which has bled off socialist support, won a disappointing 8.5 per cent, the same result as the Communist Party, according to the projections.

The extreme-right National Front, which favours expelling Arab immigrants from France, captured 12.5 per cent, the projections showed.

The remainder of the vote went to smaller parties.

The likely conservative majority means that President François Mitterrand, a Socialist, will govern the final two years of his the same time in 1900, the insecond seven-year term with a terior ministry said. hostile premier and cabinet, as he

communists, ecologists and the extreme-right National Front.

The reliable forecasts, based expecially the Socialists, who have held the National Assembly

The second round of the elections as soon as the last polling tions March 20 will settle runoffs emerging from the first round, where candidates need 50 per cent of the vote to win a seat outright. Those with at least 12.5 per cent of the vote in undecided districts make the run off.

A record 5;031 candidates nearly nine for each district competed in the first round, so few seats were expected to be decided immediately.

Turnout proved higher than forecast, though it was down in the traditional left wing suburbs ringing Paris. By 5 p.m. (1600 GMT), 56,32 per cent of the 37.7 million eligible voters had cast ballots, up from 54.70 per cent at

Television networks forecast a did in 1986-90 during an uneasy 30 to 32 per cent abstention rate.

Russian envoy meets

DAMASCUS (AP) - A senior Russian official met with Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa for talks on the Middle East peace process Saturday. The Syrian Arah News Agency (SANA) said Victor Bogo Valiuk, head of the Africa and Middle East Department in the Russian Foreign said the Russian diplomat, who was expected also to visit Jordan and Israel, would likely use his

in S. Arabia — UAE

Musiims stage raily

JERSEY CITY (AP) - Hundreds of Muslims rallied outside a mosque Saturday to protest what they called false accusations of terrorism against Islam since the World Trade Centre bombing. Several leaders of the Islamic community from New Jersey and New York addressed the outdoor rally in a parking lot. "Islam is not a religion of terrorism. It is the religion of peace," said Imam Amin Awad, leader of a Brooklyn-based mosque. Speakers at the rally accused news media of distorting reports about Islam and the involvement in the bombing of people who prayed at the mosque. "The media is not representing America," Imam Awad said. "It is representing some kind of special people in America and it is representing their special interests." The crowd mounted several chants, including "Islam is peace. God is great. Islam is justice."

Egypt has no record

cycle of violence continues OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) near the Jewish settlement of Palestinians said soldiers shot Ariel in the West Bank, killing - Israeli troops shot dead four Palestinians and Palestinians kilone soldier and wounding two,

territories over the weekend.

pied Gaza Strip after Arabs fired

at an army observation post,

lightly wounding a soldier in an

The army confirmed the sol-

dier's injury but said it was check-

ing on the reported deaths. Palestinians identified the dead as

Ali Abu Younis, 24, and Salam

Saturday's ambushes were the

deadliest attacks on Israeli troops

since the Islamic Resistance

Movement Hamas killed three

soldiers on Dec. 7, prompting

Isreal to expel 415 alleged Mus-

The Qassem military wing of

Hamas said three of its men

Gaza Strip Saturday morning. The army said Sergeant Yoosi

Shabtai, 21, was shot dead in the

attack in Jabalya refugee camp.

opened fire on an Israeli patrol

ambushed an army patrol in the .

lim activists to Lebanon.

Shurrah, 12.

led two Israeli soldiers in separate the army said. A Palestinian guerrilla group claimed responsibility for the killamhushes in the Israeli-occupied ing of the Israeli soldier. Palestinians said troops shot dead two of the Palestinians, aged 12 and 24, early Sunday in Khan Younis town in the occu-

Israelis kill 2 in Gaza as

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), led by Nayef Hawatmeh, said in a statement a unit of its "Red Star Forces" carried out the attack Saturday near Ariel. "The DFLP claims responsibil-

A Palestinian relative carries the body of Maher Khan Yunis. Maher was shot dead Saturday by

ity for the killing of an Israeli sergeant yesterday close to the Ariel settlement near the city of Nahlus," the statement said. After the attacks, about 2,000 Jewish settlers chanting "Death

to terrorists" demonstrated ontside the Tel Aviv home of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to demand his resignation. Mr. Rabin cut short a trip to the United States last week be-

cause of a surge in violence following his expulsion of alleged Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists . in December. Palestinians said Israeli soldiers

killed two Palestinians and wounded 13 in clashes with Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip after the Unknown assailants later first ambush.

In Khan Younis refugee camp, Palestinians, page 2

dead Maher Naim Al Majideh, 10, and Talih Al Hamrani, 16. The camp has been a hotbed of protest over the expulsion. Palestinians said clashes also erupted in Jabalya after residents

ignored a curfew. Soldiers fired live ammunition at demonstrators, wounding two. Israelis have killed 65 Arabs seven in Khan Younis in the last five days — since Mr. Rabin expelled the 415 Palestinians

on Dec. 17. Arabs have killed 12 Israelis over the same period. The Israeli right wing, including the main opposition Likud Party which chooses a successor to Yitzhak Shamir this week. savs the Jewish deaths show Mr. Rabin is not doing enough to

without trial to South Lebanon

protect Israelis., Even members of Mr. Rabin's own Labour Party backed a call by the national police chief for gun owners to carry their

Mr. Rabin, returning from Washington Friday, said security would come only through peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Arafat urges protection for

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has decided to try Muslim militant

Sunday, security sources said. Followers of Sheikh Rahman,

States and Egypt this month.

Two alleged followers have been arrested in connection with the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York and Egyptian security forces have taken

sources added.

Jersey since 1991. A re trial was possible in the case because President Hosni Mubarak cancelled the original

Defendants repudiate video evidence, page 2

By Maria . M. Shahin

Iraq slams U.S. report on 'war crimes'

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Sunday a U.S. government report listing what Washington called substantiated Iraqi "war crimes" in Kuwait was full of lies and fabrications.

Al Thawra, the newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, described the report released on Friday as an attempt by the United States to fabricate evidence against Iraq as the time approached to review an international trade embargo

against it.
The U.N. Security Council will conduct its periodic review of the sanctions on March 29.

"The report is full of distortion and falsehood." Al Thawra said. Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 and was driven out by a U.S.-led mullinational force seven months later.

The 116-page report contains written and videotaped accounts from rape and torture victims, photographs of murdered Kuwaitis and videotapes of torture implements and burial sites.

Kuwait probe

Kuwaiti navy and air force officers will be asked to appear before a parliamentary fact-finding committee studying the crisis with Iraq that preceded the 1990

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

KUWAIT (AP) — Knwait will compensate Iraqi farmers who lost parts of their lands when the United Nations demarcated the

border last year, a newspaper reported Sunday. The independent Al Qabas daily quoted the prime minister, Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, as saying Saturday that Kuwait would do this so the "Iraqi regime will not find any excuse to progratinate" in accepting the new londer Park and the same to progratinate."

procrastinate" in accepting the new border. Baghdad has refused to recognise the new line, which has been patrolled by U.N. observers following the Gulf war that liberated Kuwait from a seven-month Iraqi occupation. About 50 Iraqi farmers were

affected by the demarcation in November several farms extend as

far as a kilometre inside Kuwait. Some Iraqi farmers suddenly

found their tomato, onion and garlic fields were in Kuwait. The

Kuwaitis did not challenge them when they continued to harvest

their crops by crossing the newly defined border. But Kuwaiti officials accused Iraqi security police of dressing op like labourers and raiding Kuwaiti-owned farms at night to steal money and after

NICOSIA (R) - Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

warned Saturday that deviating from the principles of Islam would

spell failure for the Islamic revolution. The official Iranian news agency IRNA said Ayatollah Khamenei was addressing the nation on the occasion of the Iranian new year which started Sunday. It

quoted him as saying that progress in Iran was "owed to close adherence to the principles of the Islamic revolution despite

suggestions by foreign elements that commitment to those principles would tend to be problematic. What tends to solve the

problems of the people and government in Iran is the nation's

commitment to the revolution and diversion from those principles

would only bring failure." Ayatollah Khamenei said Iran's

economic schemes, including a new development plan to he

launched this year, aimed at serving "the less privileged sectors of

Djibouti rebels lose last outlet to coast

DJIBOUTI (R) - Rebels in northern Djihouti have lost their

last outlet to the Red Sea coast with the government army's recapture of strategic Moulouhle and Ras Dumeira, the Defence Ministry said Sunday. Defence Minister Ahmad

Boulalch Barreh returned to the capital Saturday with armed

forces chiefs after visiting the area. He announced that the

entire 270-kilometre coastline was now in the hands of the Djibouti armed forces. This has cut the rebels' supply line to

Yemen, on the other side of the Red Sea. Quantities of supplies

from Yemen were captured on the coast, fthe ministry said. A

truck carrying a heavy machine-gun and 10 Front for the

Restoration of Unity and Democracy (FRUD) rebels fell into a ravine 12 kilometres from Moulouhle when it was attacked by

Diibouti forces. Five rebels were killed, four were badly

wounded and two others were taken prisoner, it said. Among

those killed was the leader of a commando attack on Djibouti

West sending more submarines to Gulf

MANAMA (R) - Western navies are sending more sub-

marines to the oil-rich Gulf after Iran brought a submarine into

the waterway last November, naval sources said Sunday. The

sources in the Gulf said two U.S. submarines and one British

submarine are expected in the region this week. They also said that British, French and U.S. forces will be holding anti-submarine exercises this year with Gulf Arab states. Britain's

nuclear-powered submaring HMS Triumph is due in the Gulf on

March 29. The two U.S. submarines are to join the battle group

of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, which replaced the U.S.

carrier Kitty Hawk in the region Thursday. U.S. navy spokes-

man Lieutenant-Commander Bruce Cole told Reuters Sunday

the Nimitz's submarines were not yet in the region under command of the U.S. Navy's Central Command, which oversees forces in the Gulf, Gulf of Oman and the Red Sea.

society and ensuring social equity.

port on March 11.

Khamenei urges adherence to Islam

Kuwait to compensate Iraqi farmers

Parliament's Deputy Speaker Saleh Al Fadalah was quoted as saying the panel wanted to question senior officers from the two services, as well as an assistant chief of staff for military intelligence and a former Kuwaiti military attache in Baghdad.

Mr. Fadalah did not identify

the officers and officials. Iraqi troops met little resistance from Kuwait's vastly outnumbered armed forces when

they swept into their neighbour on Aug. 2, 1990. A U.S.-led coalition of Western and Arab armies expelled traqi occupation forces seven months later.

The committee has the power to turn itself into a full-blown inquiry with the authority to compel witnesses to attend.

But Mr. Fadalah said the 17 hearings so far held by the committee had gone smoothly and there had been no need for the

extra powers.
"All are cooperating with us in a fine way," the English-language Arab Times quoted him as

saying.
The committee in the past week questioned army Chief of Staff Major General Jaber Al

invasion, newspapers reported Khaled Al Sabah for three hours Sunday. Khaled Al Sabah for three hours on the army's actions shortly be-

fore the invasion.

Mr. Fadalah said the committee also planned to question ordinary citizens and expatriates about their experiences during the invasion period.

The committee is expected to submit an initial report on its work to the assembly on April 8. Mr. Fadalah has said it would take more than a year to submit a final report.

Sheikh Nawaf told the committee in January that Kuwait had been deceived by Iraq into thinking that it would not invade. The armed forces were consequently not prepared when it happened, he said.

Iraq completes canal

Iraq has finished work on a canal to divert more of the Euphrates River from the southern swamplands where the govern-ment wants to flush out Shiite Muslim rebels.

The state-run Iraqi News Agency said Saturday the 135ilometre canal will tap the Euphrates near the southern town of Qadissiyah and channel water to Sulaybat in the western desert sanctuary.

region of Dhi Qar. Last year Iraq finished two large drainage projects and started work on a third.

The government says the canals are for irrigation, designed to carry high-saline agricultural runoff and flush it into the Gulf, thereby reducing salinity over the

But diverting the Tigris and Euphrates rivers is drying up vast tracts of reed-choked marshlands and forcing tens of thousands of Shiites from their centuries-old

Rehels based in Iran claim that about 50,00 native march Arabs live in the swamplands and that about 200,000 Shiite Muslim refugees have been sheltering there since their failed rebellion against Baghdad in March 1991.

They say the marshes are being drained to flush out the refugees and about 10.000 armed Shiite

Oil industry analysts say huge oil fields, capable of producing up to 2.3 million barrels of oil a day, lie beneath the swamps. Military operations waged against the marshlands are believed aimed at gaining control over the oil in addition to destroying the rebels'

Tension marks Kurd festivities in Turkey

CIZRE. Turkey (Agency) — Turkish Kurds, heeding a cease-fire call by guerrilla leader Abdullah Ócalan, celebrated their Nowrouz spring festival in low-key style Sunday.

Tanks, armoured cars and sharpshooters moved overnight into the middle of this soutbeastern town, scene of the worst of last year's Nowrouz violence which killed about 100 people. Groups of townspeople

gathered to dance around bonfires in rain-drenched backstreets, but youngsters who began shouting nationalist slogans were swiftly hushed by their elders. "We don't want blood to be spilt," Cizre Mayor Hasim Hasi-

entitled to reap the fruits of the ceasefire. This is a new era." Mr. Ocalan, head of the Marxist Kurdishan Labour Party (PKK), declared Wednesday that he was ordering a unilateral 26-day ceasefire in the independence

mi told reporters. "People are

war be has fought since 1984. He also renounced the quest for a separate Kurdish state in the immediate future and said he wanted to embark on a peaceful struggle. He said bis guerrillas would fire only if attacked, but did not say they

would lay down their guns. The Torkish government has rejected any idea of negotiating with the PKK, saying rebels must surrender unconditionally.

The Nowrouz festival, which . "Long live liberty, down with Kurds often turned into an occa- colonialism," the youths some-The Nowrouz festival, which sion for nationalist demonstra- times chanted. "We want to live tions in the past, is seen as a crucial test of whether the PKK fascism." ceasefire might lead to the end of a conflict which has cost about 5.500 lives.

Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel has said Kurds may celebrate Nowrouz freely as long as order was maintained.

"Let everyone celebrate Nownefit of all. The world is watching fire. us. Do not indulge in actions that would discredit Turkey," he said

emergency rule regional governor had said permission had to be sought 72 hours in advance for worried about traditional Lot-Nowrouz celebrations.

monstrations cannut take place provincial centre of Sirnak and and asked them not to get pro-

tween the PKK and the fun- celebrations.

damentalist Hizbollah group, a 17-year-old youth was killed by a ricocheting bullet on Saturday night, apparently caused by celebratory gunfire. Batman Governor Zeki Samal

said the town was quiet. Some bonfires had been lit, but no security problems were reported. In the southeastern capital Diyarbakir, arsonists set fire to a freight car in the train station. People dancing around bonfires shouted slogans, but the city was

generally quiet. A state-paid village guard was wounded in a 45-minute gunbat-tle in Cizre on Friday night. Cizre Governor Omer Adar said the PKK had tried to enter the district where the village guards live. Townspeople said the village guards fired first.

Hurriyet newspaper said a PKK commander named Semdin Sakik was apparently defying Mr. Ocalan's ceasefire order.

It quoted a statement from Mr. Sakik found on a captured PKK fighter as saying: "Our armed army guerrillas will celebrate Nowrouz as fit by actions which will explode over the heads of the

But people in Cizre, reputed to be a stronghold of support for the PKK, seemed determined to avoid last year's clasbes.

Only a few small groups, mostly children, sang and danced in front of the traditional Bonfires. as human heings. Down with

One group sang patriotic songs in Kurdish until two approaching armoured cars sent the dancers fleeing in panic. After the vehicles passed, no-one returned to the dying fires. Friday night saw rebels and

security forces in Cizre exchange rouz if they want to, but let no automatic weapons and heavy one be harmed. Peace and order machine-gun fire in a shootout reigning in Turkey is to the be- that also involved some mortar

An official said it began with "harassing fire" on government building. But many Kurds con-But Mr. Hasimi said the tended it had been staged to cow the people.

The government appeared Spots in the region. Troops barri-"We have told the people de- caded the road to the nearby would only allow those to pass who good prove they lived there. In the troubled city of Batman. Sirnak was the scene of pitched flashpoint for a deadly feud be- battles during last year's Nowruz



repudiate video evidence CAIRO (AP) — Suspected Mus-lim militants charged with attacking tourists in Egypt repndiated in court Saturday a videtaped

blind Egyptian cleric allegedly linked with suspects in the bomb-ing of New York's World Trade Centre. They also denied that they attacked tourists, a charge that a colleague alterted as video-

cameras whirred at a previous

proclamation that their leader is a

court session. "Omar Abdul Rahman is only a religious guide and a spiritual leader for many factions of the second court session for 43 men faciog charges that could on conviction condemn many of them to hang.

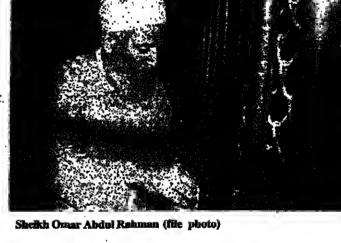
As for the charge against them, the speaker said: "We are not responsible for the operations against tourism. We are behind bars, and some of us have been in prison for the last two years."

As Saturday's trial convened, a pobce spokesman in the troubled southern city of Assiut said a suspected extremist was shot dead in his hideont after be fired on raiding police. The spokesman also announced the arrest of 50 suspects in a continuing antiextremist sweep.

Mostly bearded and wearing white robes favoured by Islamic fundamentalists in Egypt, the defendants clustered around the speaker so reporters could not see him as he voiced complaints from inside the defendants' cage.

After the speaker denied that Al Gamaa Al Islamvia (Islamic Group) was responsible for attacks on tourists since last autumn, the military prosecutor in-

He entered into evidence two video tapes taken at a previous court session. Defendant Hisham Abdul Zaher confessed in them. over the objection of his codefendants, that Al Gamaa Al Islamiya assassinated former President Anwar Sadat in 1981



and two other prominent Egyp- them to ohtain confessions.

tians since then. The defence objected, but the Agency said the presiding judge, Mobammad Wagdi Al Leithy, overruled.

Defendants in Egyptian trial

He said Mr. Abdul Zaher knew his voluntary statement was recorded by the press and television. Tapes submitted to the court, he said, were taken by police.

The judge's remarks were tantamont to accepting the tapes as evidence for the prosecution. The militants, purportedly led by Sheikh Abdul Rahman, who

bves in the United States, want to install an Iranian-style Islamic theocracy in Egypt. Gen. Leithy, the senior milit-

ary judge hearing the case in a converted theatre on an armed forces base in the desert outside Cairo, asked each defendant in turn whether he had committed the crimes of which be was accused.

The defendants, being held in metal cages along the side of the courtroom, all denied the charges and some interrupted the proceedings to renew allegations that intelligence officers bad tortured

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Gen. Leithy called one of the accused to the front of the court government's Middle East News to see weals on his legs and ordered him inspected by a doc-Each defendant was sum-

moned from the cages to be confronted with a packet of physical evidence against bim, including knives, clothing and books, and asked whether the material helonged to him.

All demed any knowledge of the materials except for some of the books, which defendants said could be bought anywhere.

One of the men in court had been arrested only Friday. He protested he was being beld in error and his name simply resembled that of someone listed in the charge sheet as on the run.

The government hegan to refer all serious militant cases to military courts last November because civilian judges bave proved slow in reaching verdicts and in some cases appear to bave been sympathetic to or intimidated by the militants.

The first military trials of 46 militants ended after little more than a month with eight death sentences.

Arafat urges protection for Palestinians

TUNIS (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat expressed hopes Saturday that Palestinian participation in peace talks could be resolved before the scheduled. opening of the new round of talks
April 20 in Washington.
Mr. Arafat also called for "ur-

gent" action by the international community to assure the protec-tion of Palestinians in the Israelioccupied territories, saying they were being subjected to "a veritable butchery."

He said he would soon go to

Cairo for a visit with President Hosni Mubarak, who is himself planning a tour of European countries and a visit to the United States, apparently to discuss the peace process.

We want to go to Washington. We don't practice rupture for the sake of rupture," Mr. Arafat said at a news conference

at his residence. But he said there could be no Palestinian participation in the peace process as long as the issue of Israeli-exiled Palestinians remains onresolved and as long as discussions over the status of Jerusalem "do not figure high in the negotiating calendar."

"I hope this question will be resolved before April 20," Mr. Arafat said.

Some 400 Palestinians hannisbed by Israel last December remain in South Lebanon for their alleged affiliation with the

Arab states taking part in the peace process are to meet march 20 in Damascus,

"We are deploying all our efforts so that the Arab position is homogenous and unified," said

The PLO has no direct role in the peace process, but the Palestinian delegation takes its cues from Tunis, PLO headquarters. Referring to the new wave of nrest in the occupied territories, Mr. Arafat called for urgent international protection.

"I ask the United States and Russia to take a practical and frank position to stop this massacre," he said. He said Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip re-ceived orders Friday to "shoot Palestinians without hesitation."

Soldiers and Israeli civilians are killed 12 Palestinians this month in the occupied territories, mostly during riots and stone-throwing incidents. At least seven Israelis have been killed in the

same time. The four latest Palestinian vicfrom the Khan Yunis refugee camp, a shantytown of 43,000

population in the occupied Gazah Maher Naim Al Majayda, 10, was cut down by army gunfire Saturday when crowds of stone-

throwing Palestinians tried to chase Israeli troops who set up a lookout post in the camp. He was hit in the chest. His

family took his body from Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis town to bury it before sundown before Israeli soldiers could remove it for an autopsy.

Taleb Fares Al Hamane, 16, was hit in the leg and bled to death during the same clash. He survived long enough to reach Nasser Hospital, bot doctors there could not deal with the severity of his wound. He died while being transferred to a hospital in Gaza City.

Ali Abu Younis, 23, was shot and killed by soldiers as they responded to assailants who shot and slightly wounded a reserve soldier Sunday. Salam Sharab, 10, was walking

to school in the Khan Yunis refugee camp be got caught in the crossfire in the Sunday clash. His father, Farhan, is a construction worker in Israel. He left three siblings.

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KING HOSTS IFTAR: His Majesty King Hus- Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment sein Sunday hosts an Iftar hanquet in honour of the secretaries general of political parties, heads of municipal councils, as well as leaders of tribes and Palestinian camps. The banquet was attended by Princes Faisal Ben Al Hussein and Ghazi Ben of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Mahammad Drives Ministers Sharif Zaid Bas Sharif Fawaz Zaben, the Imam of the Hashemite Court Ahmad Helayel, and the direction of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Mahammad Drives Ministers Sharif Zaid Bas Sharif Fawaz Zaben, the Imam of the Hashemite Court Ahmad Helayel, and the direction of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Mahammad Drives Ministers Sharif Zaid Bas Sharif Fawaz Zaben, the Imam of the Hashemite Court Ahmad Helayel, and the direction of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Mahammad Drives Ministry in the Imam of the Hashemite Court Ahmad Helayel, and the Edwin Mahammad Helayel, and the Grant Helayel, and the Grant Helayel, and the Edwin Mahammad Helayel, and the Edwin Mahammad Helayel, and the Grant Helayel, and the Edwin Mahammad Helayel, and the Ed Mohammad, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef, Minister of

Affairs. The King and the guests performed Al

## Sheikh Alami eulogised

AMMAN (J.T.) — The late Saadeddin Al Alami, the former mufti of Jerusalem who died last month at the age of 82, was eulogised Saturday at a special ceremony held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Am-

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g calendar.

Sheikh Alami was a staunch defeoder of the holy city of Jerusalem, and Arabs and Muslims can never forget his struggle in the face of Zionist attempts to desecrate the Al Aqsa Mosqoe and other holy places, said Palestine Ambassador to Jordan Al Tauch Abdal Palis Tayeh Abdul Rahim.

The Crusades had ended with a defeat in the Arab region and so will Zionism, said Senator Kamel Sharif, another eulogist at the ceremony.

He said that the Arah victory

over the Zionism was certain. Fuad Farraj a former parliament deputy from the Jerusalem constituency, praised the late Sheikh Alami for his role in promoting Islamic-Christian solidarity in the course of his eodeavours to defend the holy

He said Muslims and Christians

collaborate in the struggle to liberate the holy lands. The eulogy ceremony, held in observance of the 40 days follow-

ing Sheik Alami's death, was also ddressed by the Kingdom's Mufti Sheikh Nouh Salman, who said that the event coincided with the Kingdom's commemoration of the Karameh Battle, Sheikh Salman said the 1968 battle marked the first Arah victory over the Israeli Armed Forces in the wake of the set back of the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Sheikh Mohammad Al Majid

of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs related Sheikh Alami's struggle against the Israelis and his prominent role when the Israelis burnt the Al Aqsa Mosque in 1968.

Sheikh Alami, who died of heart failure after a long illness, and helped establish the Islamic High Council following Israel's occupation of Arah East Jerusalem in 1967.

The council has led the political



Saadeddin Al Alami

addition to the Jordanian ambassador to Libya and

Austrian envoy meets with ministers

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif Sunday received in his office

the Austrian Ambassador to Jordan Michael

Stigelbauer and reviewed with him bilateral rela-

tions and scopes of cooperation in the information

field between Jordan and Austria. Also Sunday,

Minister of Awqaf and Islamie Affairs Izzeddin Al

Khatih Al Tamimi reviewed with Dr. Stigelbauer

scopes of bilateral cooperation and means of

AMMAN (Petra) - Balqa Governors Eid Al

Qatarneb, the district governors of Deir Alla and

South Shonneh districts, the South Shooneh mayor

and the directors of government departments in

Balqa governorate Sunday visited the Martyr's

Monument in South Shouneh, where they laid a

wreath of flowers. The visit coiocides with Jordan's

commemoration of the Karameh Battle. Boy

scouts and girl guides from different schools and

student delegations from various state and national

occasion, Balqa schools held various celebrations

doring which speeches were made, and national

songs were sung through the school broadcasting

services. Cultural and sports activities were also

organised and exhibitions beld to mark the occa-

universities also visited the monument. On the

**Balga marks Karameh Battle** 

the Libyan ambassador to Jordan.

enhancing them.

battle to protect the holy sites in the Jerusalem.

The enlogy was attended by representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), several members of parliameot and the Palestine National Coon-

cil members in Amman. Also atteodiog was Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif.

#### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Procedures outlined for well-wishers

AMMAN (Petra) - The Royal Protocol Office Sunday issued a communique explaining procedores for His Majesty King Hussein's reception of well-wishers on the first day of Eid Al Fitr, expected to start Tuesday or Wednesday. The e said congratulators will gather on t first day of the feast at Raghadan Palace at 6.45 a.m. and His Majesty's procession will arrive at the palace at 7 a.m. It said former prime ministers, ministers, senators and deputies will gather in the palace's front yard to wait for the King's arrival, while the other well-wishers will wait in the backyard of the palace.

#### Crown Prince congratulates Sutrismo

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday sent a cahle to the newlydesignated Indonesian Vice-President Try Sotrismo, congratulating him on his appointment and wishing him success in serving his people.

#### Libvan minister ends visit to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Lihya's Foreign Minister Omar Al Muotasser Sunday left Amman at the end of a two-day official visit to Jordan during which he beld talks with senior Jordanian officials on Arab, regional and international issues of common ioterest. Mr. Muntassser also discussed hilateral relations and means of enhancing them, particularly in the economic field. Prime Mioister Sharif Zeid Ben Sbaker Saturday received Mr. Muntasser and discussed with him Libya's dispute with Western countries over the bombing of an American airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988 as well as Jordanian-Libyan cooperation in the economic arena. Following the meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Kamel Abo Jaber. Libya's amhassador to Jordan and the Jordanian ambassador to Lihya, Mr. Mootasser told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that his discussions with Sharif Zeid dealt with issues of common concern to both countries as well as regional developments. Upon departure from Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA), Mr. Muntasser was seen off hy his Jordanian counterpart Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber and senior Foreign Ministry officials, io

Tafileh governor lights up Shaitam village

TAFILEH (Petra) — To mark Jordan's celebrations of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throoe, Tafileh Governor Mohammad Talhouni Sunday inaugurated the electrification project of Sbaitam village in Tafileh governorate. Shaitam was listed as one of the areas to be linked with electric power as part of a national project for the electrification of rural and badia regions, according to Director of the Jordan Electricity Aothority Office in Tafileh Yasio Khasawneh. Mr. Khasawneh said that 97 per cent of the villages and population concentrations in the governorate is connected to the electric

#### **Palestinians**

(Continued from page 1)

Tunis does represent their wishes and desire. Second, the Palestinians needed to show the Israelis and the Americans that they don't accept a violation of law and order - in other words U.N. Security Council Resolutions," the PNC member told the Jordan

A Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre opinion poll which was poblished in February indicated that 83 per cent of the people in the occupied territories believe that the negotiating team should not return to the peace talks until the expellee issue is addressed.

Both support for and expectations of the peace talks have declined considerably since the peace process began in October of 1991, PLO officials monitoring the disappointment that the peo-

events in the occupied territories

The public opinion poll conducted by the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre indicates that only 60 per cent of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank believe the Palestiniao delegation to the peace talks should return "after the expellees have returned." Only 13 per cent said they thought negotiations was the appropriate method for solving the Palestinian problem.

Both the PLO leadership and that of the Islamic Resistance movement Hamas question the results of the recent poll. But they admit that support for Palestinian participation in the talks is waning.

"We are at a low point right now," said the senior Arafat advisor from Tunis. "But despite smallest piece of land," warned

ple feel about the lack of progress thus far we cannot and must not quit the negotiations."

Mr. Aruri said in Amman: "People have seen no results. On the contrary they are seeing harsher policies being practiced by the Israelis since the 'peaceful' Rabin government took over."

While opponents of the peace talks, namely the group of 10 Palestinian parties most of whom are based on Damascus, say that the Palestinians should pull out of the talks, Palestinian aoalysts warn of grave consequences.

"If we give up and pull out, the Israelis will have their way and start building settlements on the West Bank again at full scale. By the time they are finished the West Bank will look like the Galilee triangle and we won't be able to negotiate over even the Arafat's advisor.

# Shipping agents welcome European group's decision to maintain regular service to Aqaba

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Jordanian Shipping Agents Association (J\$AA) Sunday welcomed the decision by a French-based consortium to. maintain its regular shipping lines to Aqaba despite the withdrawal of one of its member companies.

Tawfiq Kawar, president of the association, noted that the move by Marseilles-hased Red Sea Express (RSE) to charter a new ship and continue its regular service to Aqaba comes at a time when many other shipping companies are reluctant to send their vessels to the Red Sea port in view of the difficulties posed by the requirements laid down by the enforcers of the international sanctions

pledged support for all efforts

aimed at settiog up income-

generating projects and narrowing pockets of poverty in the Kingdom.

Princess Basma was speaking during a tour in Jerash and

Ajloun districts, which included

Ajloun, Rimon and Mastaba vil-

ages, to follow op on activities of

the Third Annual Charity Cam-

paign launched by Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fond

(QAF), and to inspect services

The Princess called on citizens

to crystallise practical ideas set to

benefit people in this region. She said QAF is ready to pro-

vide the oecessary social services

Princess Basma cootributed the

costs of establishing a social ser-

vice centre in Rimoo, in addition

in accordance with the available

offered to people.

"The Red Sea Express offers newly-built ship, Hansa Berlin, to the main container service to replace "General Delgado." Aqaba as opposed to other companies which discharge their containers at Jeddah for (transhipment) to Aqaba," Mr. Kawar

The JSAA president noted that Red Sea Express was the only international shipowner to contime regular sailings to Aqaba throughout the Gulf crisis, despite the difficulties brought on by the imposition of sanctions against Iraq and overzealous enforcement of the embargo.

The Red Sea Express consortium, which will comprise the CMA, DSR and CAMEL companies after the withdrawal of Merzario Marittima with effect from March 31, has chartered a

The Princess supervised the

distribution of assistance to 1,000

needy families in both districts,

thus bringing to 5,260 the number

of families benefiting from the

charity campaign natioo-wide.

Princess Basma was accompanied

on her visits by the Ajloun and

Jerash district governors, Lower

House of Parliament member

Issa Al Rimoni and senior gov-

ernment officials from both dis-

On Saturday Princess Basma attended an litar hosted by the

Jordan Inter-Contincotal Hotel

The Iftar banquet, which was

organised by the Save the Chil-

dren Federation, was held at Al

Priocess Basma distributed

Nuzha Social Services Centre.

gifts to the children at the end of the Iftar.

to honour orphans.

which belonged to Merzario, to continue the container service to

Three other RSE ships in the Agaba service are CMA's RS
"Eureka," Camel's RS
"Ensemble," and DSR line's RS

"We firmly believe that customers demand a fully-dedicated, regular liner service, providing direct calls to Aqaha, Hodeidah, Port Sudan and Jeddah ... for shippers to know their cargo will arrive at destination of the vessel it was actually loaded on in Europe," said a press release from the consortium.

"RSE is the only line serving the full range of the main Red

basis," it said.

The release said the service

would have an improved efficiency — with sailings every 11 days from Thamesport, Rotterdam, Antewerp. Hamburg and Le

"RSE reaffirms its dedication and leader position in this trade, challenging the many indirect lines who have taken a sudden transhipment interest in some of the Red Sea ports."

It was an indirect reference to

the shipping lines which, Mr. Kawar said, now resort to a 'feedering service" from Jeddah.

Under this arrangement. which, according to Mr. Kawar, adversely affects the prominence of Aqaba, small container ships operate a shuttle service betwee the Saudi port and Agaha.

The service allows the intern: tional shipping lines to avoid th delays and problems posed by th. prerequisites laid down by th U.S.-led enforcers of the sand tions against Iraq, but costs th Jordanian importer highe

"It is a welcome move by RSn to maintain their services to Aqaha and we appreciate it veri much." said Mr. Kawar.

Beyond the immediate conte:s of continued services, the RSn decision is seen indicative of the consortium's continued confin dence in Aqaha's role and thprominence it would regain in and when the sanctions againn Iraq are lifted.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday tours Jerash and Ajloun districts to inspect activities of charity campaign and needs of the area's people

## Arab labour meeting to discuss population

Princess Basma inspects

Jerash, Ajloun districts

JERASH (Petra) — Her Royal to JD 2,000 to support the Masta-Highness Princess Basma Sunday ba Charitable Society.

Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabariti Sonday chaired a meeting at his office to review preparations for a pan-Arab labour conference to be held in Amman early next

His Majesty King Hussein is expected to deliver the inaugural speech at the conference, to open formally at the Al Hussein Youth City's Palace of Culture on April. 5, according to Ministry of Labour officials.

The week-long conference is expected to iovolve lahoorrelated issues such as the role of Arab women in promoting socioecocomic development in the Arab World, a report by the director of the Arah Labour Office (ALO) concerning pan-Arah labour cooperation, financial issues and the implementation of agreements concluded at previous labour conference, offi-

cials said. Also oo the agenda, they said, are an Arab Nation memorandum to be suhmitted to the International Lahour Conference opening in Geneva in June this year, a pan-Arab strategy on employment, labour integration in the Arab World, the employment of handicapped persons, trade union freedoms, and occupational safety.

In an interview with Al Ra'i April 22.

Cultural Centre.

time and place with the concerned institutions.

**EXHIBITIONS** 

ing computers and computer programmes, at JUST.

★ Exhibition entitled the Memory of Silk, displaying traditional

**LECTURE** 

☆ Lecture entitled "Monolithic Pillars in Jordan" by Crasten

Jordan, at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7 p.m.

CONDOLENCES

Irbid - With deep sadness and grief, the Jarrar

family in both Banks of Jordan, mourn the death of:

Stefan Mousa Abdul Ghani Jarrar

who passed away at the age of 10 in France

Condolences are offered at the residence of the late

Abdul Ghani Ahmad Jarrar in Irbid, Quraish

Street, near Al Rashid taxi, for three days starting.

Cable condolences to:

Mousa Jarrar Fax: 0033/48550555, Paris.

following an incurable disease.

on Monday March 22, 1993.

Köber, who is conducting research on standing stones in

Jordanian and Palestinian costumes, shawis, carpets, pottery copperware, from the Widad Kawar collection — at the French

AMMAN (J.T.) - Minister of Arabic daily Sunday, Mr. Kabariti said the conference, organised in cooperation with the Arab League, the U.N. Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the U:N: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), intends to tackle several major issues related to population in the Arah World.

> He explained that the labour conference is part of preparation for U.N.-sponsored conference due to be held in Cairo in September 1994. The minister said he expected

that several recommendations will be issued by the participants who, he said, include representatives of all the Arab countries. Arab League Secretary Gener-

al Ismat Abdul Maguid, who is due to arrive in Amman on April 4, will represent the Arah League at the conference. Representatives of several re-

gional and international organisations concerned with population growth, development, migrations and womeo's status are also expected to attend, according to Ministry of Labour officials.

They said that following the opening session, participants will continue their meetings at the Amman Marriott Hotel uotil

### to aid needy in Jordan AMMAN (Petra) — The Canadian government has donated

Canada donates \$20,000

\$20,000 to the Ministry of Social Development to help it implement its projects benefiting needy families of Jordan, according to an anonuncement by Minister of Social Development Amin Awad Mashaqbeh. Some of the fuods will be used

to provide loans to heads of needy families trying to start their small income-generating projects, said the minister in a statemeot Sunday. Widows, divorced women and

orphans who have no income Amin Awad Mashaqbeh whatsoever will also receive part cooking oil and clothing to 120 of the funds in monthly payments from the ministry, Dr. Mashaqbeh added. · The minister made the state-

ment during his tour of the villages which will benefit from the projects located around Khirbet Al Samra and Dajanich areas of the Mafraq governorate. While on the tour, Dr. Masha-

qbeh distributed sugar, rice, ernment to help the poor.



needy families.

He said that through the help of 600 charitable societies and several non-Jordanian organisations, the ministry has been providing assistance to the needy in

The ministry's strong arm is the National Aid Fund (NAF) which was created in 1986 by the gov-

## Food supply abundant " — ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — The Minin try of Supply Sunday issued ?. statement to reassure the pubbf that the food supply in the Kinn dom during the coming Eid At Fitr, the feast marking the end 4the holy month of Ramadan, :r more than adequate.

The ministry said it has plied the markets with quantitiof beef and muttom that exceen the normal requirements of th local markets.

The total amount of meat su's plus Saturday was estimated O 125 tounes, said the statemen

quoting ao official ministisource. The ministry has prepared a lie

of the bakeries that are to reman open in rotation during the fease which will last from Mondag through Friday.

# WHAT'S GOING ON The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed Scientific exhibition of projects designed by students at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), includ-



#### Now... OPEN IN JORDAN Join us of our Grand Opening ond Enjoy the Best Quality of Fost Food from our Exclusive Selection, storting with our Fomous 100% Flome Broiled Beef Burgers. Hot Cut Roost Beef, Crispy Fried Chicken, Chicken Nuggets, Onion Rings. A Wide Selection of Solods, Hot Apple Pie. ond Much Much More. Kids con Enjoy the Entertoinment Section Creoted Specially for them while you Enjoy the food YOUR ORDER IS SERVED IN MINUTES

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Jollabor International Chain Restaurants

## By Walid Sadi

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## Morillon, the example

AMONG THE thousands of Western generals, one, Philippe viorilion, stands tall. His achievement demonstrates a hope hat the military in the West were not all trained and organised to fight liberation movements in the Third or second worlds or abet repressive and tyrannical regimes in

Gen. Morillon last week led a U.N. convoy with food and nedicine to the Bosnian town of Srebrenica, besieged and onstantly bombarded by Serbian forces. After delivering he aid to the town, the general evacuated the wounded from he town to another town, Tuzla, only to be greeted on urrival by a barrage of 120 mm shelling from the Serbs.

That Bosnian towns and villages are being systematically lestroyed, and Bosnian women raped, seems to invoke little eaction from the West beyond American "daring" airtrop of blankets and canned food for a people whose plight extends beyond food to basic survival under the bail of Serbian bombardment. The word "shame" - if shame still neans anything in certain quarters in the West - seems to e an understatement in describing the complacent attitude of some countries.

While Washington and London lead the campaign that ripples Iraq and its people and while they contemplate ntervention in less explosive areas in the world, say sonth indan, they practically turn a blind eye on the slaughter of a vhole ethnic minority in former Yugoslavia.

Why the West, especially the more able countries in it, is to indifferent, at least in deed, to the plight of the Muslim Bosnians, nobody knows. From our own point of view we an only see that this attitude will only aggravate Muslim 'eelings towards the West and will certainly lead to a leepening of the already existing divide between our peoples md countries.

When President Bill Clinton took over from President Bush earlier this year, be was reported to have summoned is generals with the intention of assuming greater U.S. role n wretched Yugoslavia. But confronted with the "facts" about the "cost" of direct intervention, the president seems o have held back on his campaign promises. Alas, one more iberal, and supposedly chief advocate and champion of numan rights in the world, chose to do nothing substantial or the miserable Bosnian Muslims.

Generals in Western Europe, at NATO headquarters and n the vast lands of the U.S., who for decades readied hemselves for the "Soviet threat" appear today incapable of dealing with a much less menacing threat. Is not towardice the greatest of sins? Or is just the continued flow

Gen. Morillon truly deserves His Majesty's medal and nore, not only for his personal courage but also because he s setting an example to follow in international relations.

#### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday strongly ttacked the United States for trying to extend sanctions on the raqi people. The Clinton administration is not satisfied with nerely delaying a discussion on the question of the sanctions until ne end of this month, but also has been issuing false reports bout alleged Iraqi atrocities during the brief occupation of uwait, said Tareq Masarweb. Citing the testimony of the luwaiti ambassador's daughter to the United States as an xample of false allegations, the writer said that the United States trying hard to hlackmail the Security Council members and ifluencing their decisions out of hatred of the Iraqi leadership nd people and to extend the present sanctions that are causing ntold sufferings to the innocent population. Referring to reports y the Red Cross and other organisations, which had stated that sore than 2 million people in the north and south of Iraq are scing real starvation and are in desperate need of medical ttention, the writer said that the reports alone should prompt the ecurity Council to end the unjust sanctions. He said it is the americans who committed atrocities against the Iraqis and the ietnamese people and ought to face trial for their crimes and not ne innocent Iraqi people. Punishment should be dealt to the mericans who dropped unspecified quantities of uranium dust nto the Iraqi soil, harming an entire population and not to the ictims of such crime, the writer said. The Arah countries, for neir part, the writer continued, should realise that it is illogical nd unreasonable for anyone of them to maintain a siege of any ther Arab country, and a victim of American plots which should nd through the efforts of sincere Arab leaders who believe in the an-Arah legitimacy and not in the Western style, U.S.rchestrated legitimacy.

columnist in Al Dustour urged the Arah countries to end their ttempi lo appease the Western countries at the expense of ational interests. The time has come for the Arabs to turn their ttention to solidarity, having realised that the U.N. Security ouncil resolutions are not implemented fairly, said Taher Al dwan. The Arab countries involved in settling Libya's dispute ith London, Washington and Paris ought to realise that it is etter for them to protect Libya and Arab interests rather than try o please the Western countries which are allied against Arab iterests, said the writer. He said working together, the Arab lates can achieve something positive to protect their national nerest. It was the so-called understanding between Cairo and lamascus that provided the cover for the U.S.-led coalition's ggression on Iraq paved the ground for the peace process upon ne U.S. initiative and has influenced and directed the ongoing alks concerning the Lockerbie affair, said the writer. But, he aid. the Arab states have so far failed to achieve anything as a esult of this Cairo-Damascus understanding and, what is more, here are indications now that the Cairo-Damascus alliance is eakening as the two sides do not see eye to eye with regard to a umber of issues. The writer claimed that while Damascus naintains strong ties with Iran, Egypt is involved in fighting off ne Iranian-backed Islamists and while Damascus rejects the idea f separate peace treaty with Israel. Egypt is known trying to nediate between Tel Aviv and Damascus for such objective. He aid that under the circumstances, and in view of the fact that only ne Arabs can handle their own affairs and protect their national iterests. Arab leaders ought to stop all attempts to please the Vest and should take the matter into their own hands, giving due ttention to Arab national interests.

WEEKLY POLITICAL PULSE

# Jordan's inadequate policies

JORDAN APPEARS to be "flying low and safe" on several key regional and international issues on the premise that a low profile is considerably more sane and secure than a high profile in these trying times. This posture has increasingly characterised the country's policies ever since the outbreak of Gulf crisis when the Kingdom found itself isolated by countries and regions where international clout counts most. The country's relations with traditional friends and allies immediately suffered thereafter and became strained. This is not to dispute the validity of the country's position vis-a-vis the Gulf conflict that erupted on the heels of Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait in 1990. In terms of merits, Jordan's stance on the conflict is still basically right albeit much misunderstood even by the country's closest allies and supporters. In the past Gulf crisis era, democracy and the democratie process in the Kingdom preempted traditional objec-tives and became the focus of the government's policy in both the national and international arenas. In so doing, Amman's bot pursuit of pluralistic democracy per se suggests that that noble goal is all that counts in the conditions that prevail in the wake of the collapse of the Communist order worldwide and the advent of

The question that remains is whether this seemingly deliberate and strategie decision to fly low is indeed safe in the long run. For starters, the immediate consequence of this national policy was the secondary role that Jordan started to perform on many regional and international levels.

With regard to the Arab-Israeli peace process, Jordan started to play second fiddle not only to the other concerned Arah countries but also to the Palestinian party. Suddenly Jordan began to act as if it does not count very much as far as the developing

issues in the region and elsewhere in the world are concerned. There is every reason to believe that this intentional low profile is not exactly benign and without much serious risk to the Kingdom

The country received much support, both political and economic, when it assumed an unusually high profile on almost all regional issues. If the policy that the government is now assuming continues to advocate the so-called safer stance, there could be a moment in the future when the Kingdom could render itself increasingly marginal on matters that count most in shaping the future of the Middle East.

"The question that remains is whether this seemingly deliberate and strategic decision to fly low is indeed safe in the long run. For starters, the immediate consequence of this national policy was the secondary role that Jordan started to perform on many regional and international levels."

This ominous assessment as to where Jordan is heading calls for an urgent review lest the country permits its role to atrophy any further. If Jordan continues to believe that it is as central today as it had been in the past to major issues affecting the stability and progress of the region our policy makers will have to start making appraisals for the future course of the country.

As noble as democracy is as a national policy, it cannot serve as the only central objective of the country's domestic and regional policies. There must be a lot more on the mind of our policy makers than the development of democracy. The continued democratic process is obviously the proper setting in which other goals must be pursued. But to put all our eggs in the democratic basket could be damaging even to the democratic process itself. Jordan must assume a more vibrant role in the peace process. It cannot be satisfied with the role of providing an umhrella for the Palestinian side. It is bad enough that Amman's precipitous decision to break all legal and administrative relations with the West Bank has contributed to the false Israeli argument that the occupied territories have been rendered disputed territories.

On strictly legal grounds, this Israeli posture lacks credence and

legitimacy. Still the decision to go ahead with the plan to give way to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's assumption of control over the fate and future of the West Bank before its liberation has had damaging results as well. Perhaps it is not too late to rectify past judgements that were taken with the best of intentions but nevertheless caused untold difficulties in the process.

Notwithstanding the ramifications of the decision to break relations with the West Bank in haste, there is still a hig role for Jordan to play if it still chooses to perform it. This requires a higher profile for the country on all pressing subjects affecting the future of the region. In turn this recommended course would necessitate a more active international participation by Jordan on all levels. The role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must in turn be expanded and reactivated to reflect this new sense of confidence. There will come a time when material support to the Kingdom will resume hut it cannot be expected to materialise soon as long as democracy and democracy alone is all that we are trying to sell regionally and domestically.

# Avoiding a 'leap into the bottomless depths'

# Yeltsin signs legislators' death warrant and risks new confrontation with Congress

By Vanora Bennett Reuter

MOSCOW — President Boris he had signed the death warrant stitution would be held on April of Russia's militant supreme 25 to abolish the congress. legislature, won worldwide fame in 1991 for his successful resist- stop Russia plunging into anarance to a right-wing coup.

ing the August putsch was an icon depths. for independent Russia in its euphoric first days.

conservative parliament, elected of Communist sympathisers and in Soviet days and hostile to had already tried to repeat the reform, has hattling Mr. Yeltsin cycle for power since the collapse of Soviet Union.

series of stormy parliamentary anti-constitutional coup... The congresses, deputies voted away, congress became a dress rehearmuch of Mr. Yeltsin's authority, sal for revanchism by the former They ruled out a referendum to party nomenclatura which simply Russians whether they wanted to be ruled by him or by

nation he was taking special pow-ers to force through the referen-

He said a vote of confidence Yeltsin, who announced Saturday and a referendum on a new con-Decisive action was needed to

chy, Mr. Yeltsin said. "Russia The image of the strapping, will not survive a second October white-haired leader rallying revolution," he said grimly. "It democrats from atop a tank dur- will be a leap into the bottomless

The first revolution in 1917 led to 70 years of Communist rule. But it has tarnished. Russia's Mr. Yeltsin said congress was full

"The congress allowed the leadership of the parliament to This month, at the eighth in a set in motion the wheels of an wants to deceive the people. But .both Mr. Yeltsin's vice-

president and the head of the On Saturday, Mr. Yeltsin constitutional court, which has struck back. He announced to the brokered past compromises with "What happened tonight is the



for revanchism (by former Com-

parhament, rejected Mr. Yeltsin's proposal within minutes of the president's televised address and declared it unconstitutional.

political suicide of President Yeltsin," hardline Parliamentary Deputy Sergei Baburin told reporters afterwards

Although Mr. Yeltsin is still

little in a country weary of economic npheaval, growing crime, ethnic clashes and looming hyperinflation. Conservative ranks

The former construction engineer has an uncanny ability to escape apparent political disaster at the last moment. But a new compromise, hammered out with Mr. Khasbulatov at the end of the eighth congress, left him mana-

"The president is weak," maverick nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky told reporters at the March congress "When a man is impotent his

girlfriend goes off with another man. In the same way, the country now has to find a new president, a strong onc. Four years ago he had been sacked from his post as Moscow

head of the all-powerful Communist Party and was on the verge of dismissal from the party's ruling politburo.

But a dogged determination and a history of being underesti-

the single most popular political mated saw him secure the top figure in Russia, that counts for seat of power, clinched by his heroic resistance to the coup from behind the barricades around the Russian "White House."

His mentor and rival Mikhail Gorbachev was forced into early retirement in December 1991 to head a think-tank, leaving Mr. Yeltsin as first among equals among presidents in the Com-monwealth of Independent States that succeeded the union.

Mr. Yeltsin has bucked authority since his early days as a Communist Party apparatchik in the Urals industrial city of Sverd-

When Mr. Gorbachev brought him to Moscow in 1985, Mr. Yeltsin rose quickly to become a junior member of the party politboro, then the highest power in the land. His demands for faster reform lost him favour and in 1988 he was sacked.

But in March 1989 he was elected to parliament in the country's first multi-candidate elecper cent of the vote in Moscow.

tions, gaining a phenomenal 89 In July 1990, he gambled again.

# M. KAHIL

# A message of tolerance, friendship

The following is a message to Muslims by the president of the Pontificium Consilium, Francis Cardinal Arinze, on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr.

My Muslim Friends,

IT IS a joy for me, as President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, to greet you at the end of your Ramadan fast on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr. It is with a feeling of religious solidarity that I send these greetings, because this year our Christian period of special prayer and pe-nance the Season of Lent, has nearly coincided with the month of Ramadan

During this time, we have been standing before God as two communities of believers, offering the homage and worship due to the One Creator, Sustainer, and Final Goal of all human life. We come to God humbly, in full awareness of our sinfulness and unworthiness, and ask God's mercy for our failings. We turn to God to seek his guidance and strength which alone can enable us to carry out the duties pre-

Our duties to God include faith, prayer, repentance and good works. But we remember also that God has given us duties towards our neighbour and generally to human society. We live in an age where Islam and Christianity are found in every continent. In many countries of the world, Christian and Muslims today live side by side, work together in the same offices and factories, study in the same schools, form part of societies which are continually becoming more and more pluralist in na-

What duty do we have towards these societies? What specific contribution are we called to make because of our religious commitments? These are questions upon which our period of fasting offers a special occasion

for reflection. We know that on every continent the pluralistic character of modern life has engendered tensions. Especially when exacerbated by political and economic factors, these tensions have at times in the past led to violence.

scribed by our respective reli- Still today, its various parts of the world, they all too often end in civil strife and warfare, with its inevitable results of human suffering, loss of life and property, and the displacement of peoples. Sometimes the pretext of these tensions is religion, in other cases

it is race, language or social class. We should try to eliminate or at least reduce tensions in society. We must be leaders in educating our own communities to live with others, to accept others with their differences, and yet at the same time to make their distinctive contributions to society. Secondly, we must give an example to all ndividuals and groups in our own societies that we, Christians and Muslims, are ready to live with others, to respect their dignity and rights, and to carry out our social responsibilities for the

good of all. A challenge which faces us in this increasingly pluralist world is to show that genuine religion, based on belief in God and the desire to do his will, is not a divisive and disruptive element in society, but that it is rather the firmest foundation for love of others, for justice, and for a more

those who believe that God is one, Creator of all, it follows that the human family is one. We share a common history and common hopes fot the future. We, who believe that God's will is sovereign over all humankind, know that it is the will of God that every human person be treated with respect.

We must show the world that these beliefs form an enlightened and religious basis for social life. When Christians or Muslims are intolerant of others, when they give way to confessional hatred. racist attacks, the slaughter of innocents, so-called ethnic cleansing and other forms of oppression and wrongdoing, they bear false witness against the good and loving God in whom they believe the season of Lent, like the month of Ramadan, is a time for examining our consciences, for acknowledging our sins and returning to God. Let us pray that God's grace help us all to live together in harmony and mutual

I send you warm greetings as you approach the feast of the breaking of your fast!

#### Rabin's refutable claims

IN THE press conference held at the White House on Monday March 15, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, highlighted the

following points:

1. Israel did not want war in 1967: Egypt gave a solumn pledge to the U.S. not to start shooting. Israel gave the U.S. a grace period of 14 days, during which to resolve the problem of the Straits of Tirana, but made its onslaught on Egypt after 9 days. only, when the negotiations for the reopening of the Straits of Tirana for Israeli navigation, were still going on, and showed definite signs of success. Does not the attack, when negotiations were going on, indicate that Israel wanted to abort the negotiations, in order not to lose the golden opportunity which presented itself when Egypt, following the Israeli promise to the U.S., cancelled all its military preparations, and went back to normal

tife? This is the reason why Egypt was taken by surprise.

On the other hand, if Israel really wanted peace, why did it not define its borders? Is it not because Israel was cherishing the dream of "Greater Israel", which would be from the Nile to the **Euphrates?** 

2. Israel accepted Security Council Resolution 242, which clearly says "Acquisition of land by force is not permissible."

If Israel did in fact accept this resolution, why (a) Did it not comply with the resolution and withdraw from the lands it occupied in 1967, by force? (b) Why dld it annex the Arah part of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, in violation of this resolution? (c) Why dld Dr. Gunnar Jarring resign his post as U.N. Mediator? Is it not because he could not convince Israel of the U.N. interpretation of this Security Council resolution (d) Last hut not least. Why, after lengthy discussion with the Israeli authorities. was James Baker, the former U.S. Secretary of State, compelled to say loudly "If Israel really wants to live in peace, she should stop dreaming of Greater Israel"? Is it not because he sensed that Israel was still cherishing the hope of expanding at the expense of

3. Israel warned Jordan in 1967 not to enter the war which it waged. This statement might to be correct, but has Mr. Rabin forgotten that Egypt is a sister country to Jordan, and as such, Jordan was bound to help her sister, when attacked? Moreover, Egypt and Jordan were signatories to the Unified Arab Defence Pact, which considered all the Arab frontiers with Israel as one

line, and therefore Jordan was duty bound to help Egypt.

In this connection, it may be of interest to remind Mr. Rabin, that in September, 1939, Great Britain and France did the same thing and rushed to help Poland when it was invaded by the German armies, out of sense of duty towards Poland, although they did not have a unified defence pact with her, nor is she a sister to any one of them. Why was this action considered legitimate, and that of Jordan was not? Or did Mr. Rabin want Jordan to dishonour its commitments towards the sister countries, as Israel did with the U.S. when it attacked Egypt nine days after

it gave the U.S. government a grace period of 14 days?

Is it not ironic that the responsible officials in Israel are stilltrying to cheat the world with the same lies that they were telling the U.S. officials in 1967. These lies led Mr. Dean Rusk, the then U.S. Secretary of State, to scream out of exasperation in the face of Mr. Abba Eban, the then Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs, "When are you going to stop telling us lies, and to force us to tell lies to our Arab friends, which would ultimately end up in us losing our credibility with them"?

> Basil Ennab Amman.

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#### House panel reports irregularities (Continued from page 1) colleagues who used their posi-

tions to secure jobs for friends and relatives. One deputy, a former minister, who was not given the floor because the House decided to postpone the discussion of the committees findings, described the report as "meak," lacking in sub-

stance and concentrating on minor violations. The government did not respond to the accusations.

"Unfairness in appointments, the bureaucratie corruption that accompanies it and the lack of seriousness of the administrative reform programmes make the legislative authorities responsible for putting an end to (these practices)," the committee said.

In response to claims made earlier by some deputies that the digging into public-sector appointments was motivated by personal interests to settle old

scores, the panel urged lawmakers to use its findings to promote public interest.

The findings of the committee are not aimed at settling old scores but are meant as a lesson... (and aimed at) overcoming this ordeal and promoting public interest," the committee said.

The committee proposed that all public-sector hiring be chan-nelled through the Civil Service Commission and an account of all illegal appointments be included in the Audi Bureau's annual report to the House.

"This will prevent (officials) from using their offices for personal gains, favouring one member of society to others," the committee said.

Failure to do so, it said, will inevitably cause some concerned agencies, mainly the Lower House of Parliament, its credibil-

## Al Risheh yields more gas finds

(Continued from page 1)

kilometres from Al Risheh fields which now produce gas, indicating that Jordan has a substantial

deposit of gas, he added.
Output from the present fields
is used to fuel two 30-megawatt turbines in the Al Risheh region and the generated power is linked with the national grid. The capacity of the power-generating facil-ity is expected to be raised by 30

megawatts by July this year.
The NRA, in cooperation with
Petrocanada, a Canadian government agency, will increase current production of gas at Al Risheh to 46 million cubic feet per day from the current 23 million cubic feet per day and three other fields would be linked to the power-generating facility, according to

Mr. Abul Ragheb expected the expansion project to be completed

early July.
The NRA will also, for the first time, launch three-dimensional seismological surveys in the Dead Sea region with the objective of determining the geological nature of the region in preparation to digging oil wells, the minister said.

A better picture of the overall oil and gas situation in Jordan is

House also endorsed a draft law on teachers' union even though the Supreme Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution bas yet to rule on the constitutionality of the draft legislation. The constitutionality of the

In its session Sunday, the

draft law is being contested oo the grounds that it will unionise government employees in violation of the Constitution.

The House cleared the draft law after amending it to give teachers the right to hold strikes and defeating a bill by the Islamists to restrict investment of its assets to ventures that correspond with Islamic Sharia.

Twenty-eight out of 58 de-paties present at Sunday's session voted in favour of the motion while 29 deputies voted against it. The vote constituted the second defeat for Islamist deputies in less than a week. On Wednesday, the House voted down a Muslim Brotherbood proposal to segre-gate sexes at schools.

expected to emerge by the end of this year, he added.

The NRA will launch 100-metre deep exploratory wells in the Dead Sea area — in 'Ain Al Hommar in the central part - immediately after the Eid holidays, the minis-

ter said. Seismological surveys will in-itially focus on the tip of the Dead

South Kerea's Hanbo company, which has signed an oil and gas exploration contract with the Jordanian government, has almost completed the neces geological and geophysical studies related to the digging of two ex-ploratory wells in its area of con-

cession, the minister said.

#### terference in Russia's internal

my countries by name. But the United States, Germany and France are among those which have expressed strong support for Mr. Yeltsin in the power struggle. Germany accused Russia's par-

Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt said be regretted Mr. Yeltsin's imposition of emergency rule, but added if the gamble works, it could boost democracy

in the long run. "What we are most interested in is to see that the process of reform is being secured," said Hans van den Broek, the European Community's foreign affairs

commissioner. 'Our feeling is that President Yeltsin at present is the only leading figure that can put this

process through," he said. Many suggested that Mr. Yelt-sin has the moral high ground in the duel, with his mandate as Russia's first democratically-

reassured Mr. Yeltsin intended to safeguard civil liberties and main-

five last month. tain continuity in Russia's foreign

policy, be said. France, renewing a call for an emergency summit of the Group of Seven top industrial nations to review aid to Russia, said Mr. Yeltsin's move fell within the

9 sentenced

to death

in Algeria

news agency APS reported.

The sentences were part of a

trial of 51 suspected members of

an armed group charged with

attacking a military barracks and

killing an undisclosed number of

Two people were sentenced to

15 years in prison. Several others

were given jail terms of five to 10

years and seven were acquitted

during proceedings that lasted

Three of those given the death

penalty were sentenced in absen-

tia, as were eight others. It was

not clear whether they were

among those receiving jail terms

All were being tried in connec-

tion with an attack on a barracks in Bbda, 50 kilometres south of

Algiers, where there is also a military prison bolding the coun-try's top Muslim fundamentalist

They were also charged with

murder, possession of weapons

and explosives, theft, associating

with criminals and selling alcoho-

A total of 62 death sentences

have been passed in Algeria since

a state of emergency was decreed

to combst violence acts by

alleged fundamentalist groups.

The special court condemned

or acquitted.

be drinks.

until early Sunday morning.

people including a policeman.

Germany saw Mr. Yeltsin's action as a chance to preserve economic and political reforms, government spokesman Dieter Vogel

pledged their support, but Italy added a note of caution.

said in a statement.

Bulgaria, Moscow's closest ally during the communist era, also

avert the chaos and lawlessness lic of Serb Krajina." Russia is going towards," a spokesman for President Zhelyu

scorn on the move in an outspoken interview with Italy's La

ble. I can't believe it," said Mr. Commonwealth of Independent

vardnadze voiced support for Mr. Yeltsin, but said the Russian leader should bave acted sooner

heading for civil war. "More than that," he told reporters in the Georgian capital Tbilisi, "I can almost smell it."

# A Russian invasion

in search of electronic goods

By Diana Abdallah Reuter

ALGIERS (Agencies) - Alger-DUBAI - It's like the gold rush. ia's anti-terrorist court, set up to The diggers are former Soviet combat Muslim fundamentalist citizens and they are mining the violence, has sentenced nine men Arab Gulf. to death for the attempted murder of a policeman, the official

The "gold" they are after is mainly electronic goods which can make their fortune back Armed with a few thousand

dollars each, hundreds fly in each week from the former Soviet republics to this booming Gulf emirate, snapping up electronic goods to sell at home at twice the

They arrive in airliners specially equipped for commercial tourism - with most of their seats stripped away to make space for the tonnes of overweight cargo they take back.

Russian drowns out other languages in downtown Dubai as small groups in colourful shirts and shorts shop around, loudly discussing the best deals.

They say televisions, stereos, video recorders, cameras and

telephone sets which they say they get for one third of the price they would pay back home.

Most of what the Dubai shop-The surge in commercial tour-

keepers call "Russian tourists" say the incentive for their frequent trips to the Gulf is a desperate need to boost their meagre incomes.

"We come bere because at home people bave no money for food or apartments. It is impossible to live from a salary," said Ingrida Puzikas, 21, from

"At home I make 15 a month," said ber husband, Saulius Kaunas, 23, who works at a vilnius electronics shop and is on his third visit to Dubai.

The prices here are a lot cheaper. If we buy an item here for 500 we sell it back home for

double the price. "This time we are taking back

radios are the best buys, and even 500 kilos (1,100 pounds), two television sets, two video recorders and two stereo systems," he

> ism to the Gulf from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in the past year prompted private CIS-based airlines and Russia's state-owned Aeroflot to lay on an increasing number of charter flights to Dubai.

> The airlines take special measures to accommodate tonnes of excess weight.

"We came on a charter Aeroflot plane. The group was 35 people and there were only 35 chairs to the Tupolev TU-154, the rest of the space they kept empty for the stuff we will be taking back," said Mr. Kaunas.

The big TU-154 Tri-Jet can normally carry up to 180 passen-

Russian tourists flood Gulf souks tax at home on the goods but one couple said they paid 600 per 100 kilos (220 pounds) of extra

weight.

Dubai shopkeepers said that when the Russian wave started

about a year ago, many brought memontos from the former Soviet Union to sell in dollars and

use the money to buy electronics. But that is slowly stopping because local laws ban selling goods on the streets without permits.

At a market in Abu Dhabi port two men from Tajikistan touted large plastie bags full of Russianmade watchers, cameras and binoculars.

Binoculars were going for 150 dirhams (39), Russian-made Zenit cameras for 250 dirhams

But port security guards intervened to stop the pair, saving they did not bave a permit. Language is another problem for the Russians.

"Most of them don't speak

English, so we've had to learn a few words of Russian, just enough to make a sale," said one The tourists say they don't pay Indian shopkeeper.

# Crisis awaits Serb-held region of Croatia

By Paul Holmes Reuter

BELI MANASTIR, CROATIA - The plains that stretch into the distance around this Serb-held town in eastern Croatia have been ploughed to a rich brown,

ready for planting.

But the men who should be working the soil are either carrying guns on a front line facing Croatian troops or have fled. An undeclared economie embargo is starving the area of imported fertiliser, seeds and fuel.

Now, United Nations officials say, a region where crops have grown in abundance for centuries could soon be in need of international relief supplies.

"If they are not able to cultivate the land there will be a very serious problem by the autumn, Cedric Thornberry, the civil affairs director of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in former Yngoslavia, said recently.

The Baranja region of eastern Croatia, which sweeps down to the River Dannbe and the border with Hungary, was seized by ethnic Serbs in mid-1991 in the war that erupted when Croatia broke away from former Yugos-

Patrolled for the past year by Belgian peacekeeping troops, it is in one of four U.N.-protected zones which cover the 30 per cent of Croatia where minority Serbs have declared their own "Repub-

U.N. military and civilian officials say ethnic tension has risen in Baranja since Croatia's army launched an offensive to recooquer strategic ground from the Serbs in the mountainous far west of Croatia.

Colonel Wilfried Heyvaert, commander of the Belgian U.N. battalion, said six people had been murdered in Serb extremist attacks on members of Baranja's dwindling Croat community since the offensive began on January

The dead include a Croat couple in their 60s killed in their home at night in Beli Manastir, Baranja's main town.

"It is not organised," Mr. Heyvaert said in an interview." I do not believe that they (the local Serb authorities) are involved with the people who are doing

Mr. Heyvaert and other U.N. officials said a far more serious problem was looming on the economie front, with Serbs as well as minority Croats, ethnic Hungarians and Gypsies all facing the threat of food shortages and de-

About 20,000 non-Serbs, main-Croats, among a population of 50,000 were driven from Baranja or fled during the Croatian war. Some 17,000 Serbs, refugees from Croatia or the war in Bosnia, have moved into their

cleansing and not ethnic eleansing," said U.N. Civil Affairs Officer Phillip Corwin.

'They (non-Serbs) want to get out because first of all the economie situation is so bad - no money, no jobs, no prospects and no heat in their houses."

Mr. Corwin and other officials say Croatia, which has vowed to regain Serb-held territory by force if the U.N. cannot or will not restore its sovereignty by peacekeeping and mediation, is also to blame for the uncertainty

that the position of Croats is either you will be mobilised to kill your brother, caught in the crossfire or the Serbs will get

you." Mr. Crowin said. A mobilisation of all men between the ages of 18 and 65 throughout the self-styled Krajina Republic in response to the Croatian offensive has prompted a number of Croats to leave

It bas also kept the Serbs from working on the land, worsening the economie crisis in the region,

arming Serb militias, are now spending more and more time helping misery-hit Serbs and non-

lot of people here with food.

lysed. As part of Croatia under international law, Krajina is exempt from the U.N. economic sanctions imposed on what remains of

But Krajina Serb leaders have refused to allow U.N. officials to

solution. UNPROFOR says that until they do, it will not issue clearance

one U.N. official said.

"They are trying to force us to become so poor that we will think of (rejoining) Croatia." said Milan Milanovie, deputy defence minister of the rebel Serb repub-

change our determination never to live with Croats again."

#### (Continued from page 1)

nomyrdin, whose appointment was forced on Mr. Yeltsin by the parliament in December, gave Mr. Yeltsin only a half-hearted, partial defence. He said the president, as the

nation's popularly elected leader. "had a right to appeal to the people." Whether Mr. Yeltsin's declaration was unconstitutional or not "is another question," Mr. Chernomyrdin said, without expressing an opinion on the mat-

Mr. Chernomyrdin promised the government would maintain order and try to keep the economy running.
Russia's chief justice and pro-

secutor general denounced the declaration, But Mr. Yeltsin woo immediate backing from some world leaders, including President Bill Clinton. "As Russia's only democratically elected national leader, he courts.

has our support as do his reform government and all reformers throughout the Russian federation," Mr. Clinton said in a statement Saturday. A summit between Mr. Clinton

and Mr. Yeltsin on April 3 and 4 in Vancouver, where substantial aid for Russia is expected to be presented, would go ahead as planned.

But Mr. Clinton said Mr. Yelt-

sin must sustain his commitment to democracy if be is to keep the support of the U.S. Both the 250-member Supreme Soviet and its parent body, the 1,033-member Congress of People's Deputies, bave opposed Mr. Yeltsin's economie reforms and

sought to curb his powers.

Mr. Yeltsin went on nationwide television Saturday to respond to his humiliating defeat earlier this month by the con-

Tess, the nation's highest legisla-

Congress, Yeltsin lock horns

tive body. The lawmakers had stripped his power to issue decrees without their approval and cancelled his plan for a referendum to decide whether the president or parliament should wield supreme power.

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev denounced the action as madness and Georgia's leader Eduard Sbevardnadze said he could "almost smell" civil war approaching in Russia. Mr. Yeltsin told the nation that

the congress had "arrogantly de-

med the people the right to determine their own future" and he called for a national vote of confidence in the president on April AA-Until the vote, be said, he hasdeclaring a "special order of gov-ernment." While he stopped short of dissolving parliament, he

sions of the legislature and The Supreme Soviet is the standing legislature that is chosen by the full parliament, whose members were elected before the

said presidential decrees would

take precedence over the deci-

collapse of the Soviet Union. Only the congress bas power to impeach the president. But the Supreme Soviet can convene the congress and urge it to consider

mpeachment. Under the constitution, the president can be removed if the constitutional court rules that he has violated the constitution and the congress then impeaches him.

The 13-member constitutional court met in closed session Sunday, but did not announce a decision on Mr. Yeltsin's declaration. Its chairman, Valery Zorkin, condemned Mr. Yeltsin's

Yeltsin, condemning it as in-

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move as unconstitutional Satur-Parliamentary deputies lashed out at Western support for Mr.

The official positions of a number of states which are traditionally considered democratic but which supported president Yeltsin's anti-constitutional actions cause surprise and regret,' a draft parliamentary resolution

"Such statements are nothing but crude interference in the internal affairs of Russia." The resolution did not mention

liament of undermining democra-

elected leader. In Brussels, NATO refused to comment on Mr. Yeltsin's decision, but alliance sources said the crisis would be discussed at a

meeting of ambassadors Monday. Canada's Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who will host Mr. Yeltsin's summit with Mr. Clinton, expressed his support for the decision to let Russia's people choose their own future. He was

framework of democratic reform,

Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Anstria and Denmark also

"The government hopes that the decisions taken by President Yeltsin do not lead to an increase in the serious institutional and political difficulties which Russia faces," Italy's foreign ministry

spoke out for the Russian presi-"Yeltsin's decree is aiming to

Zhelev told Bulgarian radio. But Mr. Gorbachev poured

Stampa newspaper.
"They are mad, it's not possi-Gorbachev, who initiated farreaching reforms that led to the breakup of the Soviet empire and the creation of the successor

Gorbachev's former ally Sheand that be felt Russia could be

#### among non-Serbs. "They are being told by Croa-"My feeling in general is what tian media, rumour and hearsay. we're facing now is economic that there is going to be war and

One man's tale of horror people with bis gun.
"We sat like that the whole HERZEGOVINA (AP) -

memories of a grisly ordeal that began when the Yugoslav army rounded up thousands of people in his town of Bratunac and handed them over to rebel When the torment of the memories became too much to

bear, he sought help. Here are excerpts from what Mr. Karic

Omer Karic is haunted by

told psychiatrist Alija Sutovic: They gathered us on the playing field, there were 4,000anything bad because we did no harm to anybody, ...The army told us they came to Bratunac to prevent conflict between Serbs and Muslims from breaking out and that local Serbs will also lay down

their weapons.
"...(Later they) took us to a nearby school gym, some 40 by 15 metres (yards)... They pushed us back into a half of the gym. There were 700 of us. Then they drew a line with a chalk next to where we were standing. They said (those)

crossing will be killed. And then they ordered us to sit down. "Of course some people were pushed forward, and

there was some guy named

Dane (wbo) killed some 15

up, nine of us didn't. They died of exhaustion. Torturing and beating started that morning. I saw them smashing skulls with iron bars and axe staves. "They were taking corpses to the dressing room and as it

was filled, they...ordered us to

take the corpses outside and

night (as) they threw firecrack-

ers among us. In the morning,

when they ordered us to stand

load them onto a truck. I did it ice. I was in blood up to my ankles. "My only thought...was, where are my wife and two

children?' They took us to the Imam. He was ... asked to raise three fingers (in the Serb salute). He refused. They...carved crosses

on bis skin with knives. "On the fourth night, Savo Babie, a local Serb...told us that they were leaving. Four hundred of the 700 of us sur-"They took us to Pale ... We

They beat us less there, but there was no water. "...On Saturday, we were exchanged. ...We all carried like little children. I found out 2I days later that my wife and

children were also safe."

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stayed there for three days.

Barania even though there is no fighting there.

Mr. Heyvaert said. His troops, sent into Croatia as part of a U.N. mission that has failed to achieve its aim of dis-

Serbs to get by.
"We know of a family with nine children, an income of about 10 marks (6) a month and the husband at the front," Mr. Heyvaert said, "We are helping a

medicine and clothing." The region's ability to trade, if only to barter the crops and wine that are produced there, is para-

Yugoslavia — the republics of Serbia and Montenegro — over the war in Bosnia.

institute customs and border controls in their enclaves in defiance of a U.N. Security Council re-

certificates to local enterprises to trade abroad. 'The result is being strangled."

Krajina Serb leaders say U.N. border controls would violate the self-styled republic's "sovereign-

They can keep up this blockade for 10 years but we will not

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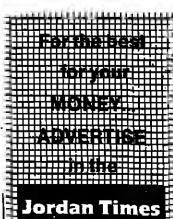
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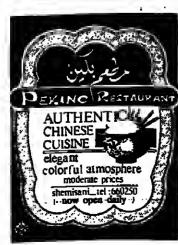
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FORECAST FOR MONDAY MARCH 22, 1993 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

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GENERAL TENDENCIES: The

New Moon in Aries is well aspected making it an ideal period to repay social obligations that will please others. Special thoughtful-

ness toward mate is wise and greatly appreciated at the mom

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

You have many outlets for your talents now although this is not the

day to definitely commit yourself

to the practical assets needed to

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

Matters at your home can take an

upswing if you do not allow a disgrunted outside associate to

break up the harmony of your

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You

find a work problem difficult to solve but otherwise you are under excellent influences to communi-

cate your needs and wishes to

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

July 21) If you avoid spending more than is wise upon some ple-

sure that you desire very much, you

will be able to enhance your secur-

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A home condition should not be per-mitted to disturb your peace of

mind for otherwise you can go after the things you really want and

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't go off so you can impress

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MARRIAGE

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ity, have more money.

one who doesn't matter but quietly consider ways to be more success-

ful but a confidential plan that you

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Keep away from a fixed and difficult financial condition today

and instead think what you can do to gain personal longings by a new

SCORPIO: (October 23 to Novem-

ber 21) Your own definite views can hold you back so avoid pre-

judices and rely upon one who whas made a big success in the outside world for advice in advanc-

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to

December 21) Don't let annoying

condition that bugs you keep you stirred up that you fail to get off to new sceenes and new personalities

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to

January 20) If you keep away from a demanding, time-wasting friend and spend time with your mate.

close attachment you can have an

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to Febru-

ary 19) If you keep out of the way of a bigwig who is looking for a whipping boy and spend time with a noble minded, acting associate

PISCES: (February 20 to March

20) Don't go off on some trip or tangent but instead take a good look at your usual surroundings

and see what you can do to make

By Glas bergen

AR F

where benefits awaits you.

unusually good day.

this is a good day.

them more attractive.



Winner Nigel Mansell of Great Britain (centre), see Emerson Fittipaldi (left) of Brazil and third placed Bobby Gordon from the U.S. display their trophies at the Australian Indycar Grand

## Mansell makes history with debut Indycar win

SURFERS PARADISE, Australia (R) - World motor racing champion Nigel Mansell stormed to a remarkable victory in his debut

The British driver set a blistering pace during the 65-lap race through the streets of this sub-tropical holiday resort to cross the line 5.11 seconds ahead of Brazilian veteran Emerson Fittipaldi. Mansell, on the pole after setting a track record during the qualifying session, is only the second Indycar "rookie" to win his first

The first to achieve that accolade in 1966 was the late great of motor racing Graham Hill, whom Mansell has said is his idol. Mansell, who had to make three pit stops during the one hour 52 minute race, said he was close to running out of fuel at the finish. It was the reigning Formula One title holder's first victory on

"I can't tell you how happy I am," the 39-year-old Mansell said. Indycar officials said Mansell completed the course in a race record

time of one hour 52 minutes 2.886 seconds. However, Mansell's first outining in the American motor sport series with the Paul Newman-Carl Haas team was not error free. He hreached a race rule, got a puncture, shaved a barrier wall and

suffered severe cramps in his right foot. He was forced to make his lap of honour in a course emergency vehicle when his car's fuel dried np.

Despite qualifying on pole position, Mansell quickly fell back to fourth place hecause the pace car ahead failed to accelerate and Fittipaldi took the lead with young American rising star Robby Gordon in second.

"I just went backwards at the start," said Mansell, who dominated the 1992 Formula One season with nine wins.

But the fearless Briton pushed his way back through the field and the race turned into a dogfight between Mansell and Fittipaldi, who won it here last year. 'Halfway through I was driving as hard as I knew," said Mansell,

who led the final 21 laps. I can't remember the last time 1 enjoyed

Fittipaldi, who has one Indy series championship and two Formula One titles to his credit, said Mansell drove a beautiful race.

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Seattle:≿	45	20	.692	4 1/2
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La Clippers	32	. 33	.492	17 1/2
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Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: ♦AK93 TAQ76 VAQ1072 ♦Void Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South +J3 \AKQ83 ↓94 +AQ107 The bidding has proceed South West North Bast Paga Pass Pass 2 5 Paga

What do you bid now?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you bold: •K984 \@AJ63 \@943 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 7 Pass 2 7 Pass Pass

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South

you hold: **±5** ∇AQJ52 ¢AQ6 **±KQ63** The bidding has proceeded: North East 1 Page Page

What action do you take?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: A10 ∇92 OAKJ1085 4K107 The bidding has proceeded:
South West Nurth East
1 ∵ 1 ♡ 1 NT Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.6-Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠KQ10 ~875 ¢82 ♠AQJ97 The bidding has proceed North Esst South West
1 • Pass 2 • Pass
2 NT Pass ? What do you bid now?

#### EUROPEAN SOCCER

# Aston Villa take over as championship favourites

LONDON (R) — Aston Villa took over as English title favourites Saturday as Manches-ter United showed further signs of growing pressure.

Leading bookmakers installed Villa, who went top with a 2-0 home win over Sheffield Wednesday, at 10-11 on.

United drew 1-1 at Manchester City to drop two points behind Villa. They are now 11-10. Norwich, now third on goal difference after crashing 3-0 at Wimbledon, are rated 8-1.

"The good thing is my players are showing no signs of any pressure," Villa manager Ron Atkinson said.

"Wednesday have had a hard week and it obviously took its

Trinidad international Dwight Yorke struck twice against Wednesday, who in the last week have elinehed places in the League Cup final and F. A. Cup

Wednesday's defender-cum-striker Paul Warhurst, who had scored 12 goals in his previous 12 games, failed to find the net in his first match since a surprise England call-up on Friday. "It's a three-horse race now

and Villa must have an excellent chance of winning it," said Sheffield manager Trevor Francis.

Manchester United, seeking an elusive first championship since 1967, have only picked up two points out of a possible nine in

KEY BISCAYNE (R) - Arant-

xa Sanchez Vicario cut down

top-seeded Steffi Graf 6-4, 3-6,

6-3 Saturday to retain her singles

title at the \$3 million Lipton

Sunny skies allowed an unin-

terrupted match - a relief at this

rain-blagued tournament - and

the second-seeded Sanchez re-

sponded with an aggressive game

that derailed, Graf's momentum.

and brought the Spaniard the

\$135,000 top prize:
"I forced her to make errors

and I think I played a great match," said Sanchez, who has

now beaten Graf four times.

thrree of them at Grand Slam

playing my best tennis right now so I'm happy."

and had given np just 12 games in

five matches until the final. But

the German's errors were costly

in Saturday's two hour five mi-

"My forehand was totally off,"

said Graf who committed 63 un-

forced errors to her opponent's

33. "1 made so many easy mis-

Graf had not lost a set all week

Championships.

tournaments.

nute match.

**Peanuts** 

**Andy Capp** 

**Mutt'n'Jeff** 

SUZE, I GUESS MAYBE

their last three games, including a recent defeat at relegation candidates Oldham.

An equaliser from French striker Erie Cantona saved United from defeat after Ireland's Niall Quinn had put City ahead. In French soccer Croatian striker Alen Boksic struck twice in the last 20 minutes to give French champions Marseille re-

venge over Nantes with an im-

pressive 2-0 away victory Satur-

Marseille, back to their best as Wednesday's 6-0 European Cup win over CSKA Moscow showed, were anxious to get their own back on the young Nantes side, the only team to have beaten them at the Stade Velodrome this

Nantes hit the post in the first half through Nicolas Ouedec but Marseille got on top in the second period and Boksie scored in the 71st and 85th minutes for a win which keeps his side hard on the heels of League leaders Monaco.

Monaco scraped a difficult 1-0home win over Sochaux thanks to a 76th minute strike from German Juergen Klinsmann to stay ahead of Marseille on goal differ-

The pair opened a three-point gap at the top but Paris St Germain could close to within two points if they win in Lens. In the Spanish League Jose Mari Bakero headed a goal two

minutes from time to give Span-

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of

defeating Germany's Steffi Graf (AFP photo)

takes. She played patiently and I

kept doing the same thing. I'm

In men's semifinal round ac-

DON'T EVEN

I'VE GOT PLENTY TO LOCK FORWARD TO - GOING TO

THINK IT!

tion, second-seeded American

very disappointed.

pain holds the Lipton Cham-

ship women's trophy after

Sanchez Vicario upsets

Graf to retain Lipton title

ish League champions Barcelona a 4-3 win over Valencia Saturday. Barcelona head the league with Alvaro Cervero then equalised for Valencia with a 25-metre free 42 points to Real Madrid's 39. kick and the match looked set to The lead changed four times end in a draw before Bakero'a Saturday with Barcelona setting winning strike.

Meanwhile Bayern Munich the early pace through a second swept aside struggling Cologne minute goal to defender Miguel 3-0 Saturday, gaining a four-point lead over Eintracht Frankfurt in Valencia levelled with a 36th minute penalty to Bulgarian strik-

er Luboslav Penev then went further ahead two minutes after the break through captain Fernando Gomez. Aitor Beguiristain equalised for Barcelona six minutes later before Michael Laudrup put the

Sheffield Wednesday's Paul Warhurst mis

Sampras will meet the winner

of a later semifinal match be-

tween 14th-seeded American

Malivai Washington and nn-

Sanchez's passing shots were on target in the first set as she

broke Graf twice to take a 5-24

lead. The Spaniard crafted low

stices to Graf's backhand which

the German could not handle,

causing frequent errors.

Sanchez failed to serve out the

set at 5-2 but succeeded two

games later, winning it 6-4 when

ly her strongest saot, continued

to give her trouble in the second

set but she mastered the low

backhand hetter and broke

From 3-1 they exchanged four successive breaks before Graf

capitalised on a 5-3 lead, serving

primarily from the baseline.

Long rallies characterised the

Graf netted a forehand.

through for a 3-0 lead.

ont the set 6-3.

Aston Villa goal. Villa won 2-0 (AFP photo)

Markus Schupp seenred visitors ahead with a header from a Guillermo Amor cross in the

the Bundesliga.
Christian Ziege opened the scoring after 13 minutes, then Bayern had to overcome some before Roland Wohlfarth added a second nine minutes from time.

Bayern's 12th successive victory two minntes later.

#### for cause of Pete Sampras defeated fifth seed Peter Korda of the Czech Republie 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 to advance to the

seeded Marcos Ondruska of sonth Africa in Sunday's final. dozen top competitors.

uncertain choice of paths.

Doctors have their eye on two types of virus which they think have attacked the runners' heart muscles, but have yet to work out how the fatal process works and

can be fought.

third set as the players battled

cration (SOFI) is under pressure from its 180,000 strong membership to come up with the answer before a ban on top-level

# Swedes hunt orienteering deaths

siasts of the outdoor pursuit of orienteering have been stopped in their tracks by the sudden, unexplained deaths of more than

Orienteers are used to running against the clock across unfamilnisers of the sport in Sweden toan

lapsed and died since 1979, eight of them in the past three years.

competition expires in April.

IF I CAN'T SAY

IT, I HAVE TO

THINK IT.

STOCKHOLM (R) - Enthn-

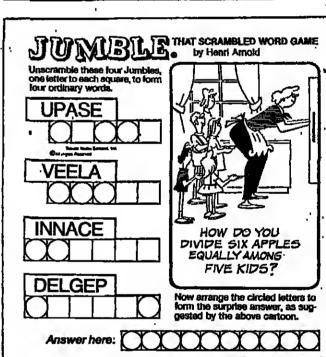
iar terrain, but a wide-ranging medical search has brought orga-

Fifteen orienteers have col-

The Swedish Orienteering Fed-

# "You know, at \$75 a session it's in her

best interest to keep us unhappy for as long as possible!"



Jumbles: SANDY FATAL HEARTH WHENCE Answer: The earliest man-made revolvers-WHEELS

THE Daily Crossword by Matthew Higgins

## 1 Type of machin 5 Ancient church

14 Fish basket 15 Parry's victory lake 12 Forever — day 20 Teddy Roosevelt 22 Vacuous 24 Start of form or

54 Porker's utterance 55 African squirrel

30 Ruhr city 31 Brief

43 Rent 45 So. Africa:

49 Jacob's son

50 Dam iti 52 Steals from 53 Sheepshank

# Yesterday's Puzzle Solved: Vegetable 3 "— Vista" (Zachary Taylor 9 iran once 10 "I smell -14 Some calluse 20 Makes lece 21 Loosen



33 is humor
36 — Kinderhock
(Van Buren)
37 Tiny amount
39 Cage star, Lam

# 25 Ties 27 Comes before 32 Makes cakes 33 Type of bing 34 Symmetrics

34 Somewhat: suff 35 John of "Good Times"
36 Lartat
37 — facto
38 Rocky hill
39 Reigning bea
40 Drunkard

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41 Farm wagon
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43 Potential
44 Sandy's
greeting
45 Large los mass
46 Herbert Hoover
51 Noah's craft

ROOM

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AND I AM

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or Aurican Squirm
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57 Citgar and
58 Egg-shaped
59 Timber wolf
60 Uttered
61 Suits
62 Pain in the nec

1 Headliner 2 A Turner 3 Andrew Jackson 4 Pekce 5 Have a spet 8 Torme and Gibson

#### AM KNOWN AS YOU BORN? A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD BORN SCORPIO! AND WHEN! 1574.1907

WELL, I WAS

SAN FRANCISCO

-AND UNDER THE SIGN

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**Chevron venturing into** 

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r the slaus not figure high calendar question wife. April 20 🗼 l'alestinians ba el last Decemb illi Lebanon i filiation with a takang pan mg ite to meet me cphoving all a the Arah post

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urges tion fo niang

Saudi chemical industry MANAMA (R) — The U.S. oil 270,000 tonnes of cyclohexane giant Chevron Corporation has decided to venture for the first time into the Saudi Arabian petrochemical industry. Arabian Chevron Inc. General Manager G.C. Wilcox has said that Chevron Corp's wholly owned Chevron Chemical Company signed a letter of intent this

investors to set up a plant in the Gulf port of Jubail. The plant, which a company statement describes as worldscale, would produce 420,000 tonnes per year of benzene and

month with a group of Saudi

These are feedstocks for other chemical industries, and evelohexane is also sold as a solvent.

Sandi Arabia has developed a large petrochemical base in Jubail and in the Red Sea port of Yanbu as part of its drive to diversify away from reliance on oil and gas exports.

its corporate conglomerate Saudi Basie Industries Corporation (SABIC), majority state-owned, has been responsible for starting up most of the major plants in Jubail and Yanbu in ioint ventures.



Et: 650			62170	ereast (	(	
TIVITY	POR	THE	PERLICO	[90/03/1993	-	21/03/19
			_			

VERSEY REPORT				
COMPANY'S MAME	TRADING WOLDER JD	PREV. CLOSTING PRICE	OPERING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAD BANK	1 36,950	232.050	231.750	122.600
JORDAN MATTONAL MANY	76,760	4.810		6.000
CATRO MODAN MARK MARK OF JORDAN	10,405	29.500	29.000	Z6_000
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT NAME	6,516	22.550 9.890	92-550	23.960
THE HOUSING MARK	44,752 62,066	7.890 2.840	7.610 2.880	3.520
JORDAN SUNAIT MARK	41,706	2.560	2.560	2.530
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BARE	13, 752	5.400	6.400	5.430
JOHNAR ISLANIC BANK WHICH SAME FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	71,304	4.720	4.740	4.780
SUSTEMPSE RANK	13,817	4.150	4.150	9.250
JORDAN THVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	39,499 21,105	9.080 6.100	9-106 6.900	3.120 6.900
BETT PLEAT SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR BOUSTING	. 32,889	9.400	9.360	6.300
AMIGN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	79,961	1.790	1.760	
ARAS EMETING COMPORATION/JORDAN	2,961		9.320	9. 380
AGANTAN SEAS THEOREMICE JORDAN FRINCE THEOREMICE	19,780	2.000	2.900	9.000
ARAB LIFE 6 ACCIDING INSURANCE	190,507	2.960	4.000	4.070
JOHDANIAN BLECTRIC POWER	976,209	3.180	1.900	9.200 2.000
ISBID DISTRICT MACERICITY	9,742	1.050	1.050	1.870
VERICLES CHEERS PEDESATION	1,815	2.200	9.050	6.050
JORDAN MATICIPAL SHIPPING LINES	1,512	9-550	9.620	2.520
MATICAL PORTYCLIO SECURITIES REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	169,449	4.720	4-750	4.870
SOUGHN CHILL MANY MANY MANY MANY MANY MANY MANY MANY	12, 123 19, 894	0.810	1.670 0.610	1. <b>680</b> 0. <b>6</b> 10
PETRA EFFERISHS 6 EQUIPMENTS LINESPEE	14,438	1.140	1.140	1.100
PACHEMANY EQUIP. RENTING 6 MATERIALICE	10,761	1.430	1.430	1.470
UNITED MIDDLE BAST 6 COMMODORS MOTELS	55, 391	2.300		2.900
ATTROCKEP CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	4,448	9.180	9-120	2.950
THE JORDAN CENTRY PACTURIES	77,548	1.570	1.860	1.850
JORDAN PRINCERNI REPIRARY MODERN INDOGRALES	09,559	9.960	9.950	9.000
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	20,423	9.050	9.100	9.100
THE JORDAN MORETED MILLS	15,007		. 2.600	6,700
ARAB PEARMACHUTICAL MANUFACTORIES	50,903	7.070	7.098	7.150
JOHNAH CERANIC TEDUSTRIES	32,223	9.200	4.250	9.400
JORDAN BAJRY	5,083	Z.920	Z.990	9.600
TWE JORDAM PIPES MANUFACTURING JORDAM PAPER 6 CAMBBOARD PARTORIES	22,243	2.000	2.870 4.700	9.860
THE PUBLIC REFERE	9,450	3.200	3.150	9.150
ARAB CHEMICAL DETERGENTS INDUSTRIES	66,925		23.350	
SPIRITED & WERVING	94,971	3.320	1.320	3.360
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	7,360	3. 640	3.680	9.980
JORDAN CLASS INDUSTRIES	15,255	0.760	0.760	0.770
DAR AL DAVA DEVILOPMENT 9 INVESTMENT ARAB INVESTMENT & INDINATIONAL TRADS	979,283	11.000	11,250	12,100
ARAB ALUKURIUM ISDOSTRY	365,999	13.910	3,470 13,980	14,900
FIVERIOUS & POULTRY	78,903	0.970	0.970	0,920
ARAH PAPER CONVERTING 9 TRADING	9,412	1.770	1.770	1.780
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	7,403	0.690	0.490	0,690
PATIONAL STREET, INCOSTRE	100,994	9.090	9.100	4-230
MATIONAL INDUSTRISE	12,703	1.000	0.990	8.559
INTERMIDIATE PRINS-CARACLA IMMERIBLES	150,717	4.240	4.910	4-330
SHIVERENT CHEMICAL IMPOSESTED AT MCC.	9,587	2.050	9.870	9.960
DONDAM INDUSTRIES 9 MATCH/JIMCO A(* -	5,018	1,300	1.300	1.300
JORDAN PRECAST CONCENTR INDUSTRY	97,293	0.410	0.910	0.620
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JWICO	0,040	4.020	4.000	4.000
MATIONAL CANLE 9 WINE IMMURACIONING	494,704	8.608	B. 750	9,000
JORDAN BULPHO-CEPHICALS	99,094	9,950	4.450	4.780
ARAB CHETER POR PRANCE & CHEMICALS	168,427	4-420	9.500	9.880 1.760
JOHNAN MINISTED. FOR MINIS & FOOD PROD-	22,978 390,812	1.740 5.986	5.690	5.770
The state of the s	.,,,,,,,	2.700	2.050	2

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PRINTER MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR		0/09/137	2 <b>~</b> 21/9	3/1339]
COMPANY - a state of	THANDING WOLLDER	PREV. CLOSUE PRICE		CLOSING PRICE
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE.	\$0,908	0,720	0.720	0.764
ARAB THIRD. FOR THVESTORET 9 EDUCATION	99,257	2.720	9.710	9.670
JOHNASTAN REPAIRIATES TEVENTORET MOLDING	41,707	1.740	1.716	1.760
ESMANNE INARREMENTAL	9,609		9.720	9.000
GRAPD TOTAL	1161,475			

Currency	12/3/1993 Close	19/3/1993 Close	Percent
Sterling Pound*	1.4324	1.4900	4.028
Deutsche Mark	1.6650	1.6359	1.78%
Swiss Franc	1.5200	1.5085	0.768
French Franc	5.6580	5.5690	1.60\$
Japanese Yen	118.07	116.00	1.78%

	12/3/1993		19/3/1993	
Culvency	(-Month(%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	I-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.47	3.00	3.43
Sterling Pound	5.88	5.50	6.06	5.78
Deutsche Mark	8.18	6.68	8.18	6.70
Swiss Franc	4.87	4.25	4.93	4.31
French Franc	11.50	8.75	12.37	8.75
Japanese Yen	3.37	3.06	3.46	3.12

Control Bank of Jord	m Exchange Rate Sull	otin Data: 21/3/1993
Ситевсу	Bid	Offer

1 10.1	046
B16	Offer
0.6880	0.6900
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### Yeltsin pledges sweeping economic reforms

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin promised sweeping changes to unblock bis economic reform programme when he announced that he was assuming 'special rule" in Russia before an April vote on a new government

Mr. Yeltsin, stepping into the unknown with his latest move in a power struggle against the conservative legislature, pledged that reform would move swiftly now that he had written a death warrant for the Congress of People's Deputies.

The battle for control of Russia has paralysed normal government as each side countermands the other's instructions, accusing its rivals of breaking the constitution and the law.

Mr. Yeltsin said in his television address Saturday that he had ordered Prime Minister Viktor Chemomyrdin to list priority economic measures within two days. Rapid land privatisation would

be top of the reform list, be said.

The current law allows partial

privatisation

KAMPALA (R) - President

Yoweri Museveni is putting

pressure on Uganda's parliament to accept the sale of public enter-

prises — the most contentious element of the country's five-year

Government sources said the

main item on the agenda of a

closed parliamentary session con-

vened by the president was the World Bank-funded privatisation

programme which lawmakers two

They argued that valuable state

assets were being pawned as fast

as possible at rock-bottom prices

but Mr. Museveni is determined

to press ahead with sales of every-

thing from a meat processing

For the government, the sup-

port of parliament for the six-

month-old privatisation program-

me - part of a \$91 million

project to revitalise the loss-

country's economy, analysts say.

The passing of a privatisation

bill now in its seventh draft is a

condition for the release of a

World Bank credit of almost \$66

million to restructure some of the

public enterprises before they are

Economists believe this injec-

tion of capital would help stem

the steady drain from treasury

coffers which results from keep-

ing affoat more than one hundred

public enterprises, many of which

are at most only marginally vi-

central heating and telephone.

Cinema

put on the market.

weeks ago voted to halt.

plant to Uganda Airlines.

economic reform plan.

Museveni

prepares

to force

bill

private ownership but restricts parliament rather than the govsales and transfers of property. Mr. Yeltsin promised that a easy credits. massive industrial privatisation

citizen was given a voucher worth 10,000 roubles last year to invest in state sell-offs, would be extended to sales of state-owned

"I am drawing up a degree regulating the procedure for obtaining ownership of real estate," he said.

He said the government would bring the inflation rate, which hit 2,500 per cent last year and is now hovering at 30 per cent a form. month, under control.

He pledged to manage "the struggle against inflation, the stabilisation of the rouble market rate and strict control over money

A central plank of reforms envisaged last year by Mr. Yeltsin's reformist government was tight monetary control. But the central bank, which answers to

Yoweri Museveni

official sources.

munity in 1972.

making state-owned enterprises effort to encourage the Asians to
— is critical to streamlining the return to this east African coun-

ped up by foreigners.

such as a brewery and a soft

drinks bottler have brought in

only 4.6 billion Uganda shillings

(about \$4.5 million) according to

give-away prices are being snap-

A main complaint is that the

Many Ugandans cheered when

former president Idi Amin expel-

led 70,000 Asians who formed the

backbone of the business com-

Under pressure from Western

donors who provide the country

with \$800 million of aid yearly,

Mr. Museveni has made every

The government can now boast

signs of economic recovery -

among them an annual inflation

rate down from more than 200

per cent at the end of the 1980s to

But the suspension of the pri-

vatisation process is a sign there is

a political price attached to the

In the absence of a stock ex-

change, the government is unable

to float the enterprises which are

legally state-owned and so enable

to broader section of Ugandans

less than 50 per cent.

sales, analysts said.

ernment, persisted in handing out

Government leaders have acprogramme, in which every cused the bank and parliament of sabotaging the reforms with an inflationary policy. Mr. Yeltsin's determined words seemed to indicate he was poised to take the central bank uinder bis control.

> Mr. Yeltsin, glancing uneasily from side to side as he spoke, outlined a costly programme of social protection measures aimed at appeasing a population whose living standards have been forced sharply down by post-Soviet re-

He said credits and tax holidays would be offered to those who wished to start their own businesses. Programmes would be launched to soak up unemployment, a side-effect of last year's move towards streamlining

State enterprises. About one million people are now out of work from a total population of 150 million. The

number is expected to soar after the legislature passes a law allowing inefficient state firms to go bankrupt.

But Mr. Yeltsin said: "Employment guarantees for those working at state enterprises which go bankrupt should be enhanced."

He said tens of millions of people, whose deposits in savings banks have been made worthless by inflation, would receive compensation in the non-inflationary form of strares in enterprises, land, and other state property.

He called for new controls on cronyism in local government, warning officials against giving lucrative contracts to favoured firms, and he urged closer coordination between regions of the far-flung federal state.

Then we will have a real ehance to give more help to pen-sioners, families with many children, single mothers, to all those who now live in poverty and need support," be said.

# **Pakistan likely** to miss 92/93 export target

unlikely to achieve its \$8 hillion target for export earnings in the fiscal year that ends in June. officials and exporters have said, Officials declined to give fi-gures, hut exporters forecast Paketan would fall short of that

goal by at least \$1 hillion. They hlamed lower cutton production because of devastating floods last September, recession in the cotton yarn industry and falling prices of rice on the international market.

"Our exports are likely to fetch \$7 hillion in the current year. about \$1 hillion less than the export target of \$8 hillion," said cotton yarn exporter Mahboob

"It will be difficult to achieve the \$8 hillion export target hecause of the cotton erisis." said an official of the government's Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

Although the trade deficit in the first eight months of the fiscal year that ends in June narrowed to \$1.79 billion — from \$1.99 billion in the year ago period exports lagged behind target, "textiles and garments. officials said.

Exports rose 10 per cent to \$4.49 hillion in the July-February period, from \$4.08 hillion in the year-ago period and imports jumped to \$6.29 hillion from \$6.08 billion, Federal Bureau of Bureau of Statistics.

"We are trying hard to raise exports," said EPB Chairman Abdul Aziz Haji Yaqoob, He said Pakistan had revised its amhitious goal hut declined to give details.

Exports usually rise in the fourth quarter, hé added, Exports have slumped, mainly because of a shortfall of 170kilogramme hales of cotton this

erop year compared with 1991/ 92. Cutton and cotton-based products account for more than 60 per cent of total exports. The All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA1 demanded recently that Pakistan devalue its rupee to 30 to the dollar

make Pakistan more competitive after neighbouring India made its supee fully convertible. Cotton ginners say production fell to 8,76 million bales to March 1, compared with 11.78 million a

— from the current 26.65 — to

year ago. The fall sent domestic cotton prices soaring and resulted in higher production costs for varn.

Exports of some items have risen in terms of quantity hut were earning less hard eurrency because of the recession, said Mohammad Ahmad Turahi. director of trade of the Federal

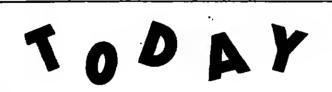
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So far selloffs of enterprises to participate in the privatisation.

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# Iran ushering in economic reforms in new year

a new year in which major reforms to shake up an inefficient, war-ravaged and state-dominated up and people out of work.

Most officials and critics agree that immediate hardships like higher inflation and job losses would result from the measures, centred around currency reforms which amount to a sharp devaluation of the riyal for many sectors. Bnt President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, in his last Friday prayer sermon of the old year, said: "If we don't cure this illness, our nation will never reach economic independence." The new

Iranian year 1372 started Satur-Íran's economy is basically about the state spending the oil revenue — envisaged at \$17 billion this year, just above last year's projection — to feed its 60 million people and support a blo-ated civil service and largely in-

efficient industries. During the devastating 1980-88 war with Iraq, the Iranian gov-ernment kept the riyal's official exchange rate at about 70 per dollar to prevent the importdependent state industries from

closing down and to keep down prices of basic imports like food. But the riyal's value on the open market, reflecting the decline of the economy under the impact of the war and turmoil of the 1979 Islamic revolution, slid to about 1,400 per dollar.

The wide gap complicated Iran's economic problems.

"A nation which wants to sell its... main (oil) revenue at onetwentietb of its value ean obviously never be reformed," Mr. Rafsanjani said. "This could not get us anywhere. It was clear that one day the economy would kneel down.

Under this year's budget law the government would abolish the official rate except for defence expenditures and imports of basic foods, fuels and medicine totalling \$3.8 billion. Another rate of 600 riyal per

dollar for some imports would also be scrapped, leaving only the floating rate last set by the central bank at 1,542 riyals per dollar

The rival on the open market some imports.

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has begun closed at 1,610 per dollar last week, up from an all-time low of 1,650 three weeks ago. While few oppose the reforms

economy are likely to put prices in principle, industrialists have complained that many companies simply do not have the money to pay for imported machinery and

materials at new prices.

Officials say industries made lazy by the cheap dollars fed them for years now need a prod to shape up and catch up with inter-national standards of efficiency.

Heavy Industry Minister Mobammad Hadi Nejad-Hosseinian said the reforms would put an end to "subsidydriven managers and those who thrived on the difference in the exchange rates." Central bank officials have not

fully explained how the new parity system works. Nothing is expected to transpire before business reopens after new year holidays on March 27.

Most analysts expect the bank to try to keep the parity stable by selling dollars on the open market and adjusting the categories eligi-ble to buy hard cash from banks - rather than freely floating the riyal and risking it taking a nose-

"The talk is that they will try to keep the floating rate at about 1,400," a Europe-based exporter to Iran told Reuters after a visit to Tehran this month.

"But they cannot supply all needs through the banks. I think the open-market dollar could soon hit 2,000 riyals," he said. Economy and Finance Minister

Mohsen Nourbakhsh said last month this would not happen because most of the government's petro-dollars and another \$2.5 billion of non-oil export revenue would reach the market to meet any demand for hard cash.

Up to \$5 billion of this year's oil revenue is committed by to repaying commercial debts, the same amount that Mr. Nourbakhsh said was expected to have been repaid over the past 12 months from the \$30 billion it owed a year ago.

Critics say even if the government has enough dollars to keep the parity stable, the change would mean an unbearable 20fold rise overnight in the price of

IMF, which would put them in a

## **IMF** presses controversial plan to help Russia hand their SDRs back to the

forms.

battered economy.

swell global liquidity.

the plan will not go ahead and

that the United States and its-

allies will instead concentrate on

trying to spur more lending to

Unlike the tMF, the World

Bank can target its assistance on

those industries and people in

Russia who need it most --- and

thus hopefully foster support

there for further economic re-

forms, the sources said. The pace of World Bank lend-

ing to Russia has been slower

than expected, in part because of

Moscow's failure to carry through

on much of its promised econo-

line up support for a \$1 hillion

project for Russia to belp it mod-

ernise its ageing oil and gas indus-

The project, which has origi-

nally been expected to come he-

fore the hank's board in late

April, is now unlikely to be considered until May, as in-depth

negotiations with Moscow have

The bank expects to chip in \$5(X) million to the project in the

Tumen area of Siberia while the

European Bank for Reconstruc-

try, hank sources said.

The hank is currently trying to

mic reforms.

yet to begin.

Russia from the World Bank.

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund is pushing a proposal to help cashstarved Russia survive its economie and political crisis by creating hillions of dollars of new assistance, monetary sources have

The controversial plan, which involves a world-wide issue of the IMF's artificial currency, the SDR, would make the funds available to Russia without costing the United States and its rich allies anything from their

"This is son of magie," one monetary source said. "But it warrants serious consideration. The IMF, as policeman of the

global monetary system, ean with the permission of its membernations create money virtually out of thin air — the same way that countries do when they issue currency.

It has not done so since 1981. largely because of opposition from the previous Bush and Reagan administrations on the grounds that such a move would reignite globat inflation.

But the urgent need to prop up Boris Yeltsin in his power struggle with Russia's parliament means that such a plan may now stand a better chance of being approved, according to the sources. The new U.S. administration, for its part, has not decided whether to back the prop-

President Bill Clinton is pressing to put together domestic and international support for Russia in time for his April 3-4 summit with beleaguered Russian leader Boris Yeltsin.

But the White House has admitted that Mr. Clinton might have difficulty convincing Congress to spend scarce U.S. resources to help Russia at a time when Americans are being asked to tighten their belts.

The beauty of the IMF proposal is that he would not have to worry about that. By issuing tion and Development will contri-SDRs to its 175 member nations. the lMF would pump up global currency reserves.

The rich nations would then other sources.

bute \$133 million. The balance might come from the export credit agencies of rich nations and

**Jordan Times** Tel: 667171

trust fund to lend to countries carrying out tough economic re-Russia would be an ohvious candidate for such support. The money from the trust fund would be in addition to a \$3 hillion loan the Russia could receive from the

IMF if it promises to overhaul its The proposal was first made by Belgium over two years ago hut never got anywhere due to opposition hy the United States. Germany and Britain. They argued that an SDR issue would be inflationary hecause it would Despite its attractiveness, some monetary sources are betting that

wounded a for 31:11. 111, was 115 in the Khan h in he cot mught him is a cons Indel He left

# U.S. drops individual aid packs in Bosnia to prevent fighting for food

SARAJEVO (R) — U.S. planes Serbs said the 18 Danish trucks only way out was through prison-to keep the process alive but there was "almost no encouragetown early Sunday, scattering in-dividual packets rather than bundles to try to prevent starving inhabitants from killing each other in the fight for food.

A. U.N. spokesman in

ALC:

Sarajevo said the food was drop-ped on the Muslim town of Srebrenica, cut off by the Serbs for 11 months. People there are reported to be close to starvation.

He said the new method sought to defuse the dangerous situation on the ground as people swarmed over airdropped food pallets and fought each other for the con-

U.N. officials in the town reported that several people were killed scrambling for the food, or by cartons falling on them.

The U.S. European Command

in Frankfurt said test drops had shown that the new rations, falling slowly because of air pockets in the packaging, would not kill people on the ground and could be dropped directly over towns rather than nearby.

The U.N. succeeded Friday in getting a convoy of food and medicine to Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia, and it evacuated 700 inhabitants including some 100 wounded to the Muslim stronshold of Tuzla.

However, a second aid convoy for Srebrenica was blocked on the Serbian-Bosnia border after local

could resume

dialogue soon

SEOUL (R) — Cold war foes

North and South Korea could

renew talks next month on a

nuclear dispute, a senior Seoul

Talks between the two Koreas

on proposed mutual nuclear in-

spections broke down in January

when the North protested against

Seoul's plan to hold military exer-

pick up swiftly at the end of the North Korea's major political schedules such as the Supreme People's Assembly (parliament)

session opening on April 7 and North Korean leader Kim's Il-

Sung's birthday celebration on

April 5." Gong Ro-Myung,

Seoul's chief negotiator in talks

with the North on nuclear issues,

"The government keeps in

mind thhe option of resuming the joint (South-North) Nuclear Con-

trol Committee at a proper time

to resolve the North's nuclear problem." Mr. Gong told the Korea Broudcasting System. Pyongyang fuelled tensiums this

month when it said it was pulling

out of a global treaty on nuclear

proliferation rather than allow

allies have been trying to pur-

suade the Communist North

Korea's hardline leadership to

North's decision to reject the

nuclear non-proliferation treaty

(NPT) was designed to "maxmi-

mise its political negotiating pow-

Referring to Nurth Korea's de-

mand that the annual Team Spirit

U.S.-South Korean military exer-

cises be scrapped for good, Mr.

Gong said: "As long as we are

guaranteed a transparent look

intu North Korea's nuclear prog-

ramme, there is a peaceful solu-

tion at hand." He did not clabu-

rate. This year's Team Spirit war

games, involving more than 120,000 troops from South Korea

and the United States, formally

games as a rehearsal for an invasion. Seoul and Washington say

they are purely defensive.

The North denounces the war

The Vienna-based Internation-Atomic Energy Agency

(IAEA), which suspects North

Korea is on the brink of produc-

ing a nuclear weapon, has given Pyongyang until the end of the

month to allow its inspectors to

hard-pressed Communist country

could face international economic

exoperating with the IAEA to make the divided Korean penin-

and may wither to death if the

U.N. Security Council imposes

economic structures with China's

China, which sent troops to

help North Korca during the 1950-53 Koreans War, is Pyon-

gyang's last remaining Commun-

ist ally and has a veto power in

South Korean officials have

said China was likely to play a

key mediating role in defusing

tension between Pyongyang's

leadership and the United Stutes.

the Security Council.

ī

cooperation. Mr. Gong said.

sanctions.

sula nuclear-free.

If it misses the deadline, the

Mr. Gong said China has been

The North will be struck hard

check two sites for uranium.

ended last Thursday.

Mr. Gong said he believed the

reconsider.

South Korea and its Western

inspection of military sites.

said in a television interview.

"Inter-Korean dialogue will

Koreas

— Seoul

official said Sunday.

cises with Washington.

loaded their supplies.
U.N. officials said this appeared to be another delaying tactic to press Serb demands for the evacuation of Serbs from Tuzla, in northern Bosnia.

A spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said they could not accept any linkage between the supply of aid to besieged settlements and the evacuation of Serbs from Muslim

"Our priority at present is to get another aid convoy to Srebre-nica," spokeswoman Lyndall

She said the question of evacuating Serbs from Tuzla was being discussed separately.
"If people are willing to go, if

there is no force used, and it's done in an orderly fashion, we are all for it," she said.

She said there was no accurate figure of the number of Serbs in Tuzla. Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency bas reported there are 18,000 Serbs in the town of whom 4,000 wanted to leave.

Ms. Sachs said a "very small number" of Serbs bad asked the UNHCR office in Tuzla about the possibility of getting out. Tanjug quoted a refugee from

Tuzla Sunday as saying the Muslim authorities in the town were not allowing anyone to leave. The

er exchanges, it said.

The refugee was quoted as ing sign that it is going to lead saying he bad heard that town's somewhere," Mr. Eckhard said. authorities were mobilising Serbs and sending them to the front-lines to fight in the Bosnian gov-

Sarajevo came under heavy artillery attack Sunday after two days

Serb artillery unleashed a ferocious barrage on the old town area and the picturesque residen-tial neighbourhood of Vratnik at dawn, leaving a trail of blasted masonry, shattered glass and downed trolley-bus wires.

Meanwhile negotiations on peace talks to end the bloody war Bosnia-Herzegovina reached an impasse Saturday with mediators evaluating bow or whether to keep the negotiations

"There doesn't seem to be any momentum building in the talks at this time," said Fred Eckhard, spokesman for mediators Cryus Vance and Lord David Owen. He said Mr. Vance, a former

U.S. secretary of state representing the United Nations, and Lord Owen, a former British foreign secretary representing the European Community, were evaluat-"to see where they go from

The mediators would attempt

No progress was made in Saturday's negotiations with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnia's Muslim President The besieged Bosnian capital Alija Izetbegovic has refused to participate in any furmal talks as long as the siege of the east Bosnia town of Srebrenica con-

> On Saturday a U.N. convoy. after more than a week of haggling, evacuated 700 civilians from Srebrenica to the Muslim stronghold of Tuzla in the north of the former Yugoslav republic.

> In an effort to put more pressure on Bosnia's Serbs and encourage the Muslims, the Security Council Monday intends to dopt a resolution enforcing an air ban over Bosnia, providing all member governments over the weekend approve a draft text.

> Last-minute amendments allow those nations fielding fighter planes against offending aircraft to decide in cooperation with the United Nations how quickly after the resolution was adopted they would be ready to enforce the no-fly zone.

> Mr. Karadzic tuld reporters that "if the no-fly zone is en-forced by a resolution, that's not going to belp us with our people and that's not going to help us with this conference.

#### ern England Saturday were areprisal attack for police successes against the guerrillas, security They said the Irish Republic Army, fighting to oust Britain fram northern Ireland, was on the ropes after a spate of arrests and police seizures of explosives and guns.

Security forces familiar with IRA strategy had braced for a calculated "spectacular" explosion intended to win publicity and

LONDON (R) - Two IRA

bombs which caused carnage in a

crowded shapping mall in north-

Two Bosnian soldiers and a U.N. soldier carry av

a Bosnian wounded woman upon her arrival in Tuzia. She was part of some 100 wounded and 500

to murder people simply in order to shock." Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke said after the twin blasts killed a four-year-old boy and injured 56 people in the town of Warrington.

to show that IRA fighters were

still a force to be reckoned with.

"This was a deliberate attempt

IRA causes carnage after

recent U.K. police successes

Srebrenica (AFP photo)

'This is a statement of defiance to say the arrests have made absolutely no difference to them." said former Deputy Police Chief Constable John Stal-

The IRA has generally avoided the widespread bloodshed caused

by its 1970s bombings on the British mainland, preferring economic, military and government targets and issuing warnings to clear the area.

Saturday's attack on a "soft target" was the most devastating since a massive bomb killed three people and injured 80 last April in London's city financial district.

Chief Stalker said it was meant to show that Warrington, where three men were arrested after a police officer was wounded and a gasworks was bombed on Feb. 26, was still vulnerable.

who are both serving 30 years in prison for the slaying of six Jesuit priests in 1989, will now be re-

The amnesty prevents the trial

of other military leaders, includ-

ing Defence Minister General

Rene Emilio Ponce, who was

leased under the amnesty.

#### Fergie divorce settlement put at £2 million

LONDON (R) - Princip Andrew's estranged wife the Duchess of York stands to collect almost £2 million (\$2.97 million) for herself and her children if she and the duke discount for the second the sec and the duke divorce, the Mail On Sunday newspaper said. There was no-one available at Buckingham Palace to comment on the claims in the Mail On Sunday that the divorce settlement between Queen Elizabeth's second son and the duchess, known as "Fergie" after her maiden name Ferguson, had been finalised. Under its terms. according to the paper, the duchess would receive a £500,000f. (\$743,300) personal settlement from the royal family. A further £1.4 million (\$2.08 million) would be put into a trust for the couple's two daughters. Princesses Bearrice and Eugenie, including £600,000 (\$891,900) to buy a house which they would own. The duke and duchess announced they were separating in March last year but there has been nn official confirmation that they are to divorce. According to the paper, the duchess, who was said tn have been hoping for £4 million (\$5.95 million) for herself as well as money for her daughters, was "stunned" by the modest size of the settlement.

#### Pakistan bans tight Western dress in Pashtu films

ISLAMABAD (R) - Pakistan's Central Board of Film Censors Saturday banned actresses in Pashtu language films from wearing figure-hugging Western dress. "Skin-tight" Western dress, particularly jeans and skirts, is objectionable and does not conform with Pashtun culture, the board said in a letter to makers of films in Pashtu, the language of North West Frontier Province. "It is high time that no leniency be shown toward such dress," the board said, adding that, unless filmmakers obeyed its ruling, scenes from their films would be cut from June 1. Pashtu is not onderstood in much of the rest of Islamic Pakistan, but Pashtu films featuring risque seenes with heroines in tight or revealing clothes are popular. ..

#### Fallen climber found near older skeleton in Alps

GRENOBLE, France (R) — Rescuers looking for a climber who had fallen to her death in the French Alps found a skeleton next to her body, police said Saturday. They said the skeleton was that of a man who went missing a year ago and probably fell off the same cliff, near Saint-Gervais.

#### Thai technology minister relies on low-tech amulet

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's Minister of Science and Technology says he is protected from danger by the magnetic field in an amulet that can even deflect bullets, the Sunday Bangkok Post reported. Minister of Science. Technology and the Environment Phisan Moonlasartsathorn told reporters bullets missed his head by just one centimetre (half an inch! when he was shot at years ago. "The magnetic field de-flected the bullets and made the. shots harmless," said Mr. Phisan: The Post quoted Mr. Phisan, who is also senior adviser to the Buddha image club of Thailand, as saying the amulet had an "invisible power", which he called "natural science". "I would not be bere talking with you now as a minister unless I had worn this little amulet," he was quoted as

#### Animal lovers strip to save fur

paraded naked through a Paris fur fair Saturday to proclaim the right of animals to keep their skins on. The group's spokesman, American Dan Matthews, said the three men and two women wielded a "we'd rather be naked than wear fur" banner through cafes and into the fair an hour before police moved in. The. group of French and U.S. activists were bundled naked into a police van, charged with indecent exposure and released after four hours. "Police were quite nice and supportive," said Mr. Matthews. 28. He said his Washington based People For Ethical Treal ment of animals group had staged similar protests in the United States, Japan and Canada but had never been arrested before. They planned to take their protest to a

#### **WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Angolan oil town intact — eyewitness

LUANDA (R) - Angola's UNITA rebels said the northern Angolan oil town of Soyo was in flames but a Reuter correspondent who flew over the town said it was not burning. Correspondent Robert Powell said Soyo's oil installations were intact and he did not see flames when he flew over the town. The UNITA radio station earlier said Soyo was in flames due to bombing by government forces and shelling by UNITA rebels. The town and its outskirts were under heavy shelling, said the National Union for the Total Independence (UNITA) radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation. "No oil will flow from Sovo to finance the war because everything is in flames as a result of heavy bombing by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA)'s air force and navy, as well as shelling by UNITA's heavy artillery," the radio said.

#### Rome prelate in corruption probe

ROME (R) - Italy's corruption scandal touched the Roman Catholic Church for the first time when a prelate and senior charity worker admitted publicly Saturday that he was under inquiry, Monsignor Luigi Di Liegro, head of the Rome Diocesan Office of the Caritas charity organisation, said he faced a probe over accusations of attempting to defraud the Rome municipality and ill-treatment of immigrants. A notification of investigation was issued last December but had not previously been made public. Mr. Di Liegro himself announced he faced the inquiry. The prelate said the probe centred on allegation he had us cootacts in Rome's city hall to secure a contract for a Catholic foundation to temporarily house Somali immigrants in a Rome hotel. He said the ill-treatment allegations arose after the bights and water were cut while the refugees were in the hotel.

#### 6 explosions rocks Philippine volcano

LEGAZPI, Philippines (R) - Mayon Volcano in the Philippines exploded six times Sunday, blasting superhot ash columns towering six-and-a-half kilometres into the air, as lava and molten rock swept down the mountain. Relief officials urged thousands of people who trickled back into villages at the foot of Mayon to flee for their lives and another wave of refugees was expected to jam into evacuation centres where more than 45,000 people are now living. No casualties have been reported since Mayon, ocar Legazpi city 330 kilometres southeast of Manila, erupted again Saturday. More than 70 people died in a series of eruptions last month from the 2,421-metre (7,940-foot) mountain.

#### U.S. envoy leaves Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) - A U.S. State Department envoy left Haiti after pledging that the Clinton administration would try to help resolve Haiti's 18-month-old political and economic crisis as soon as possible. Envoy Lawrence Pezzullo refused to comment on his meetings with leaders of Haiti's army and its military backed government. "Our conversations have to remain in the strictest confidence... it serves everybody's purpose to do so," Mr. Pezzullo told reporters before departing after a two-day visit to the impoverished Caribbean nation. Mr. Pezzullo, a former ambassador to Nicaragua, said that no timetable had been set for the restoration of democracy io Haiti, but added that he was "hopeful" that progress would soon be made. Mr. Pezzullo was accompanied to Haiti by Charles Redman, a former State Department spokesman who was named special charge d'affaires to Haiti last week.

#### Snowstorms kill 15 in China

PEKING (AP) - Fifteen people in remote northwestern China have died in storms that have dumped snow on the third of Qinghai province in the past two and a half months, an official report said Sunday. More than 2,000 people have been injured and 476,000 heads of livestock have perished in nine heavy snowfalls in the pastoral area, the Xinhua News Agency reported. In most of the affected area, temperature remained at minus 30 degrees Celsius (minus 22 degrees Fahrenheit), threatening 120,000 residents and seven million heads of livestock. Relief teams were trying to bring grain, feed and gasoline to the stricken areas, but were being hampered by the snow, poor transportation and scattered populatioo. The Xinhua report said 14 people died from flu, dysentery and pneumonia, and a nine year old boy froze to death when he tried to round up livestock in the snow.

#### Bombay leader yows crackdown

BOMBAY (R) - The chief minister of India's western state of Maharashtra has vowed to crack down ruthlessly on criminal gangs believed to be responsible for bomb attacks in Bombay. "I will see that they are mercilessly and ruthlessly dealt with, the process has already started." Sharad Pawar said io an interview published Sunday. He said that while local groups had planted the bombs, India still has to track down those outside the country who financed the operation and provided plastic explosives normally unavailable in India. The former defence minister took on administration of the Indian state after Hindu-Muslim riots in December and January. Pawar told India's Sunday Observer newspaper that the bombings which killed 250 people wounded 1,200 wounded on March 12 were designed to exploit religious riots in India and sabotage the economy. "... Some forces were eager to send a message outside India that Bombay is burning, Bombay is insecure, Bombay, the financial capital, is not io good shape, so why should anyone invest in India...." he was quoted as

## Ukrainian minister to explain START

KIEV (R) — Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko goes to Washington this week to explain to the new U.S. administration why Ukraine has persistently delayed ratification of a nuclear disarmament accord.

Mr. Zlenko is certain 10 face tough questioning about why Ukraine's parliament bas taunched into lengthy hearings on the START-1 treaty nearly three years after it first said the country would become non-nuclear.

There is no indication when a ratification debate will take place. A growing number of deputies appear onoused to approving START and joining the 1968 non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

"At the moment everything is being done to carry out our de-clared policy." Mr. Zlenko told a weekend news conference. "We are working on trying to keep a minimum the negative consequences of becoming a non-nuclear

Ukraine's leaders initially promised START-1, signed in 1991, would be ratified by the end of last year. The United States has expressed concern at the de-lay, particularly as ratification is needed in order to proceed with the more amibitious START-2 treaty concluded with Russia in

and government ministers have demanded that other nuclear states provide Ukraine with security guarantees for giving up the 176 strategic missiles of the former Soviet arsenal still on its

Guarantees in one form or another have been received from the United States, Britain and

# El Salvador deputies pass amnesty for war criminals delay

President Leonid Kravchuk

#### conflict that killed 75,000 people, SAN SALVADOR (R) - EI most of them civilians. This is an amnesty that, instead of unifying the country, will

Salvador's right-wing parties Saturday forced through a controversial amnesty for army and rebel chiefs accused by a U.N. commission of human rights atrocities during 12 years of civil war.

The ruling Arena Party and its allies in the legislature passed the amnesty law with a simple majority after failing to win cross-party support. The vote came just five days after the United Nations-

appointed "Truth Commission" report blamed the army for the vast majority of war crimes in a divide it even more," opposition

leader Ruben Zamora told Reu-Hundreds of protesters earlier

Saturday had forced the legisla-tive session to be suspended for three hours as they shouted down Arena deputies and screamed for

Colonel Guillermo Benavides

cited by the Truth Commission for ordering the Jesuit murders. Rebel and opposition leaders had demanded President Alfredo

Cristiani and the assembly first act on the recommendations of the Truth Commission before

and Lieutenant Yusshy Mendoza. passing an amnesty.

## Kidnappers free last hostages held at embassy in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (R) -Kidnappers who stormed the Nicaraguan embassy freed the last of their 25 bostages unharmed early Sunday in return for a ransom and safe passage.

The remaioing 10 bostages were released after the kidnappers and Nicaraguan government negotiators agreed on an unspecified ransom and safe passage out of Costa Rica, said Costa Rican Minister of Public Security Luis Fishman.

"We are extremely satisfied that all of the hostages were liberated without bloodsbed," Mr. Fishman said after the release at I a.m. (2 a.m. est). The heavily armed kidnappers

seized the embassy in downtown San Jose on March 8, making demands which included the removal of Nicaraguan Defence Minister Humberto Ortega.

The gunmen's leader, Jose

Manuel Urbina Lara, was

granted political asylum in the Interior Minister Alfredo Men-Dominican Republie, said Alfonso Arias, Dominican Republic Ambassador to Costa Rica.

Three other unidentified gunmen will be flown by Costa Rican government helicopter to an onnamed point inside Nicaraguan territory later Sunday, an official

The guamen had remained masked throughout the siege, according to bostages released

the embassy under the protection of the Costa Rican government until Sunday afternoon wheo they will be taken to their respective

Robelo.

The kidnappers will remain in

destinations, Mr. Fishman said. Among the hostages held through the 12-day ordeal was Nicaraguan Ambassador Alfonso

to end the kidnapping were not immediately known. Nicaraguan

The full terms of the agreement

that the kidnapper's political de-mands, including the removal of Mr. Ortega, were not negotiable. Their leader, Jose Maouel Urbina Lara, is believed to be a

dieta said throughout the siege

former member of the contra rebels who fought against the leftist Sandinista government during Nicaragua's eight-year civil war. Mr. Urbina, in one of many communiques issued during the crisis, said the aim of the raid was

partly to pressure Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro to rid the government of leftist Sandinistas. Mrs. Chamorro defeated the Sandinistas in 1990 elections, but has left many in key government posts. He also has demanded a \$6

million ransom, but said most of it would be given to the Catholic Church in Nicaragua. The hostages released earlier

said they have been well-treated.

## 2 killed, 7 wounded in Burmese rebel attacks

people and wounded seven in attacks during the past week, in was reported Sunday. A Burmese trader told repor-

ters his convoy from Rangoon was stopped by a gun battle between government troops and ethnic Karen rebels near the Burmese town of Kawkareik Friday. He saw one dead soldier and

three who were wounded, he Buremese official radio reported Sunday that one civilian was killed and four were wounded last weekend when six members of the guerrilla Karen

incidents.
This attack was also near Kawkareik, which is about 200' kilometres east of Rangoon and just 30 kilometres from the Thai

"The KNU terrorist insurgents

National Union (KNU), attacked

a lorry and a car in two separate

cannot stand seeing private entrepreneurs enjoying the freedom. of trade and transport so they are attacking private cars and planting mines on railroad lines and roads," the radio said. The KNU is the strongest of a

the Rangoon government since Burma gained independence from Britain more than four decades ago. Meanwhile, Bangladesh said

Sunday Burmese infiltrators attacked local villagers, killing one man and wounding five. The attack Friday night at Naikbyangchbari in soutbeast Bangladesh was the first such incident since December 1991 when Burmese border guards. called Lunthins, attacked a Bangladeshi security post, killing two

Police and villagers initially blamed border guards for the latest attack but a military commander later said separatists fighting for independence from rangoon for Muslim-majority Arakan state could equally have beeo responsible.

"We don't know for certain if the attack was launched by. Lunthins or guerrillas of the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), the military commander of southeastern Bangladesh Major-General Azizur Rahman told Reuters.

Burma has often accused Bang-

MAE SOT, Thailand (Agencies) duzen ethnic minority rebel ladesh of sheltering rebels from

— Burmese guerrillas killed two groups that have been fighting the RSO and Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front. Bangladesh deoies the charge. Villagers told police nearly 20

men entered Naikhyangchhari, seized some villagers and asked them to show the way to the nearest camp of the Bangladesh Rifles paramilitary border force. "As they refused the Lunthins killed one man. Five others were wounded by iediscriminate gunfire," one police officer told re-

Naikbyagchhari, a rugged hill and forest area near the border. houses one of 19 camps for Burmese refugees from alleged military persecution io Arakan state. Officials said some 288,000 re-

fugees have come to Bangladesh. A total of 22,345 refugees have returned to their homes since repatriation began in September under an agreement signed be-tween Dhaka and Rangoon four months earlier.

A newspaper report Saturday said over 100 Rohingyas bad re-turned to Bangladesh over the previous four or five days and some of them took shelter in the Naikhyangchhari camp.

"They told camp officials that ooe foreign relief organisation encouraged them to come back. the Ittefaq newspaper said with-out giving details.

A camp official, who refused to be ideotified, confirmed the re-

member of a self-styled Burmese exile government has been assassinated, a statement from the opposition group said Saturday.
The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma said Win Ko, the group's finance

In a separate development, a

after undertaking a mission last November to northern Burma. It suggested that Burma's military government was responsible for the killing, and appealed to

minister, had been assassinated

the international community "to help find the murderess for The coalition government is headquartered in Manerplaw, about 200 kilometres northeast of the Burmese capital of Rangoon on the border with Thailand. It bas limited but growing recognition from the international community as Rangoon's military reg-

ime cootinues to be ostracised

for human rights abuses.

# PARIS (R) - Five animal lovers

fur fair in Milan Wednesday, he